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Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Reviews Plans for Cordon States Ministers Meeting

NC2605142593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I quotes informed Jordanian sources in Cairo as saying that the cordon states foreign ministers will meet in the Jordanian capital on 6 June to discuss the future of the Middle East peace process. This fifth meeting of the cordon states comes after the Arab group concerned with the negotiations received an invitation from the conference's two sponsors to resume talks in the 10th round, due to be held in mid-June.

The sources noted that the idea was to hold two meetings of the cordon states' foreign ministers. The first meeting was to assess the outcome of the negotiations' ninth round, and the second was to be held on the eve of the 10th round to make suitable decisions on that round. However, the cordon states foreign ministers decided to hold only one meeting to assess the ninth round's results and monitor the prospects and developments of the peace process during the 10th round meetings.

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I said Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir made telephone calls to the foreign ministers of the countries concerned to discuss the idea of holding the meeting after the 'Id al-Adha holiday.

High-ranking Palestinian sources have stated that the Arab countries might unanimously ask to postpone the 10th round until the Arab group's stands have been clarified through a joint memorandum to the two sponsors of the peace conference.

As part of the efforts to advance the peace process, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Cairo in the next few days for important talks with President Husni Mubarak. The talks will focus on two things. The first is the outcome of Mubarak's tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and the resumption of Gulf aid to the PLO. The second deals with a joint Egyptian-Palestinian assessment of the results of the ninth round of negotiations, the magnitude of the positive developments coinciding with this round, and the prospects for progress in the coming phases. 'Arafat will also brief President Mubarak on the developments on joint Palestinian action.

On another level, AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reports that Cairo will deliver to Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin during his visit to Egypt a comprehensive report on the general Arab stand on the peace process in light of the ninth round's results. The report, the paper adds, will explain the position of the cordon states concerned with the negotiations.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO To Request Clarification of U.S. Stance

PM2705104693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 May 93 p 3

[Ilyas Nasrallah report: "Palestinians Will Not Attend 10th Round Before Clarification of U.S. Position"]

[Text] London—A well-informed Palestinian source has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the issue of attending the 10th round of peace negotiations has not yet been raised and that the Palestinian relationship with the U.S. Administration should be rectified before this round is convened.

The source said that the PLO is in the process of sending a written memorandum to the U.S. Government, asking it to explain its position, which appeared biased toward Israel in the draft joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration proposed by President Clinton's administration at the end of the ninth round of negotiations in Washington on 13 May.

The source added that the draft joint declaration revealed a U.S. backtracking on previous assurances and letters of guarantee submitted to the parties participating in the negotiations by President Bush's administration before the Madrid conference, especially with regard to the land for peace principle. The joint declaration completely dropped this principle, as well as other matters relating to the authority of the negotiations.

The source said that before the talks continue, clear answers should be obtained from the U.S. Government about its position and role in the negotiation process.

Seeks To Resume Dialogue With U.S.

JN2705072593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 May 93 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking Arab-backing for a Palestinian demand for the return of the suspended U.S.-PLO dialogue before they attend the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks next month, a PLO official said on Wednesday.

"During the Arab foreign ministers meeting, we will suggest that the Americans approve the reopening of the U.S.-PLO dialogue before we can attend the new round of negotiations," said the PLO official, who insisted on anonymity. [passage omitted]

A PLO delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Foreign Department, floated the idea with Arab officials in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan." We agreed to discuss the issue at the foreign ministers meeting," said the official.

Mr. Qaddumi, heading a delegation comprising Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, arrived from Beirut Wedesday and held talks with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and other Jordanian officials. [passage omitted]

Mr. Qaddumi said he discussed with al-Sharif Zayd preparations for the Arab foreign ministers meeting that will be convening in Amman early June.

"We will continue our consultations until we agree on one of these dates: June 5, 6 or 7," Mr. Qaddumi told reporters.

He said the coordination meeting will "discuss the American behaviour, because despite the many promises, given to all Arab parties by the American administration, it submitted a disappointing document in the Palestinian-Israeli track which aimed at changing the rules of the game." [passage omitted]

"We are tired of testing the Americans. We have had many experiences with the U.S. administrations, but we clearly tell them that the imbalance of power in the region in Israel's favour does not mean that Arabs will accept minimum concessions," said Mr. Qaddumi.

Mr. Qaddumi warned the U.S. administration of jeopardising the peace process by not playing the role of a neutral mediator.

The PLO official said that members of the Palestinian peace delegation who will visit Washington early June will demand a phased Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, including Jerusalem.

Mr. Qaddumi said Palestinian delegates will discuss with American officials a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, "with special emphasis on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and to set a timetable for this withdrawal."

Mr. Qaddumi said if Israeli forces unilaterally withdraw from any part of the occupied territories, "we will regain it as a precious part of our dear homeland, but it should be linked to withdrawal from the West Bank and Jerusalem."

He told reporters that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat did not suggest that Israel withdraw from the Gaza Strip only.

Britain's Sky Television reported that 'Arafat was ready to accept the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and partial withdrawal from the West Bank, and the Israeli troops there would be replaced by a multinational or American troops. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi, al-Husayni Deny Differences in Team

JN2605204993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 93

["Text" of joint statement issued "in the occupied territories" by chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of Palestinian negotiating team; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] We would like to make it absolutely clear that any rumored or reported disagreements or divisions within the Palestinian negotiating team to the Middle East peace talks are groundless and have no basis in truth.

Both of us—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the chief negotiator, and Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian team, along with the other delegates on the team—are all in agreement on the Palestinian commitment to the peace process and the need for it to be oriented toward a just, enduring, and dignified settlement. All of us stress that it is most important that all parties obligate themselves to the terms of reference, namely UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula. We also are of the opinion that the full partner role of the United States [words indistinct] equality and full and constructive involvement. We are fully in agreement that the PLO is the sole party [words indistinct] to make decisions on behalf of the Palestinian people regarding the peace process. We will continue to call and work for Palestinian national unity so as to tackle the present difficult circumstances and the serious challenges ahead. We would like to emphasize that [words indistinct] Israeli human rights violations and the decidedly deteriorating conditions on the ground, especially [words indistinct] and sealing off the occupied Palestinian territories, together with the mounting number of Palestinians being murdered, are at odds with the hoped for objectives of the peace process.

These actions are clear signals of the absence of good faith on the part of Israel. [Words indistinct] that Israel relentlessly pursues illegitimate settlement activities, thus undermining the credibility of the peace process and, by creating facts contrary to the objectives of the peace process, it prejudges the final outcome of the negotiations.

Any statements made by any official or member of the delegation [words indistinct] and are compatible with the [words indistinct] issued by our leadership. [Words indistinct] (?incidental) attempts to distort any of these statements seek to create confusion, besides being counterproductive.

'Abd-al-Shafi Says Israel Not Interested in Peace

TA2705101593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 May 93 p 7

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, speaking yesterday at the opening of the fourth HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] convention in Nazareth, said: "The Israeli Governments have proved that they are not interested in the peace process, and today the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration are complicating the negotiations. We consider it our duty to suspend the negotiations until the United States proves it has serious intentions regarding the Middle East peace process and stops siding with Israel."

'Abd-al-Shafi arrived at the opening late and was received with loud applause. In a brief speech, he analyzed the course of the peace talks and said that Israel is methodically working to undermine the process. He called on all the peace forces in the Jewish and Arab sectors to unite in order to pressure Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and embarrass him into showing more flexibility in the negotiations.

In 'Abd-al-Shafi's opinion, Israel has not fulfilled any of the promises it made prior to the ninth round. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that people under occupation have a right to use all means to get rid of their oppressors, but noted: "We believe that the only way to resolve the conflict is through continued negotiations until we attain a just peace in the region."

PNC Speaker Al-Sa'ih Explains Resignation Decision

PM2605150093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 May 93 p 6

[Report on interview with Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] Although his granddaughter, the young journalist Amani al-Sa'ih, intervened in the interview from time to time to help her grandfather explain a certain point, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: My state of health is, as you can see, good, praise God, since I can sit and talk with you. But my problem is my inability to walk. This problem is, as I said previously, the result of the state of exhaustion from which I suffered and am still suffering now. But my state of health was not the only reason for my resignation. There were other factors, including general conditions on the Palestinian scene and prevalent political conditions. The Israelis say they want peace, and yet they continue to set up settlements on Palestinian territory! The Americans say, we are a full and influential partner in the peace negotiations, and yet they are exerting no pressure on Israel to get it to submit to the voice of truth and the logic of just peace! The head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations says that it is necessary to suspend the peace negotiations! As for Faysal al-Husayni, he has another opinion! And Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says, neither this or that! The Palestinian leadership is calling for a meeting that includes all the leadership. I personally asked some PLO Executive Committee members here in Amman about such a meeting, and they replied, we did not go, nor will we!

Shaykh al-Sa'ih asked: So where are we? Does what is happening match the scale of the fateful issue we are dealing with? Thus I decided to submit my resignation and will not go back on it.

Asked whether the Palestinian leadership briefed him on the details of the ninth round of the peace negotiations on the Palestinian track, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: No, they did not brief me. He added that he heard about meetings of the Palestinian leadership—of which he is a member by virtue of his official post as speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC]—but he was not invited to attend them.

It appeared that the shaykh was perhaps upset for this reason, but he pointed out that his illness and his being in hospital was perhaps the reason for the leadership's desire not to disturb him and to let him rest and recuperate.

Asked about the circumstances of the decision to resign and whether he informed the PLO leadership of it before announcing the decision, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: I contacted my deputy Salim al-Za'nun, "Abu-al-Adib," and he came here, to my home, and we discussed this matter. We discussed especially the potential reactions to it. I did not, in the first place, want my resignation to be interpreted as aimed against Yasir 'Arafat. In the first place, I do not belong to Fatah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or any other faction. I am a Palestinian struggler whom Moshe Dayan, former Israeli war minister in 1967, deported. [passage omitted]

On Yasir 'Arafat's reaction to his decision to resign, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: 'Arafat was informed of the decision by fax through brother Salim al-Za'nun last Thursday. We informed Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] during our discussion, Salim al-Za'nun and I, of the subject, but he did not contact us. Yesterday (Saturday) [22 May] Salim al-Za'nun came to me, and I officially informed him of my decision. I told him that what I am primarily interested in is that my decision to resign should not be interpreted as meaning that I support other groups against Abu-'Ammar. I do not belong to this or that faction. I assumed the responsibility, and I will hand it over honestly. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he would go back on his decision to resign if the PNC rejects it or if the Palestinian leadership changes its measures concerning the general political position on the issue in a manner that satisfies him, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: My view is that I am insisting on my resignation, and I will not go back on it. The PNC is not entitled to reject my resignation or to force me to continue my task amid this "uneasy" situation. [passage omitted]

Return to Israel Urged

LD2705041593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] National institutions have urged the competent Israeli authorities to allow 82-year-old Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih [Palestine National Congress speaker], to return to his homeland after 26 years in involuntary exile.

The national institutions stressed that the venerable shaykh was suffering from illness and that his return was regarded as his natural human right, particularly since 30 Palestinian deportees were allowed to return about a month ago.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih was the first Palestinian to be expelled from his homeland by the occupation authorities under the pretext of incitement to resist the occupation. He had assumed the posts of the chairman of the Supreme Islamic Body and chairman of the appeals court, as well as the post of chief justice.

'Arafat Meets With EC Ambassadors in Tunisia

LD2705040193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last evening received their excellencies the EC ambassadors in Tunisia and the charge d'affairs of the EC legation.

During the meeting, brother President Abu-'Ammar reviewed the developments of the peace process in its ninth round, which has not achieved any tangible results because of the Israeli side's intransigence; its continued disregard for the point of reference of the talks, the invitation, and guarantee messages; the use of evasive language; and the continued skirting of the point of reference.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar expressed his regret for the continuation of the American sponsor's bias towards the Israeli side, a matter that threatens the credibility of the talks—in particular, what has become clear from the American-Israeli proposal, the attempt to make it a new basis for negotiations, the determination to skip over the point of reference, excusing Jerusalem, and ignoring the occupation, the need to withdraw, and the settlements and their fate. Brother President Abu-'Ammar explained to the European diplomats the PLO's principled stance regarding the proposals submitted, particularly in relation to the Palestinian-Israeli process, stressing that the Palestinian land is an indivisible whole.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also dealt with the series of U.S.-Israeli promises that were made to the Arab sides so that they would participate in the ninth round of talks and that have not been fulfilled so far, as well as the new obstacles that have been put in the way, particularly in relation to Jerusalem, settlements, human rights, and the isolation of regions.

Brother Abu-'Ammar talked about the deteriorating tragic conditions of our people in the occupied territories as a result of the continuing siege; closure; the policy of starvation, killing, and pursuance; and the isolation of Jerusalem. He warned that the persistence of the situation could lead to its explosion and threaten the peace process.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar urged the ambassadors to inform their countries to make immediate moves at all levels to rescue the peace process, which is being threatened by all of these conditions.

Envoy to Libya Dies on 'Militant Mission' in Bucharest

JN2605201193 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] The PLO and the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, have announced to our Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territories and to our Arab masses the death of the struggler hero martyr Hattab Abu-al-Rubb, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Libya. A Fatah cadre, he died while on a militant mission in Bucharest. [passage omitted]

Envoy Says Iraq To Give PLO $50 Million of Oil

JN2605183093 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad, has said that Iraq continues to adhere to its position of backing and supporting the PLO in its efforts to realize the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations. Speaking to AFP, al-Ahmad said that recent contacts with Iraqi officials have clearly demonstrated that Baghdad continues to respect the PLO's political options.

A few days ago, al-Ahmad said that Iraq is prepared to offer $50 million worth of oil as a gift to the PLO to help overcome the difficulties encountered by PLO institutions.

Algeria

Al-Nahdah Deputy Chairman Killed in Auto Accident

LD2605130793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] The radio station learned today that (Cheikh Hocine Mouchouma), deputy chairman of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, died last night after a tragic car accident that occurred in Ain Skouna in Setif province. [passage omitted]

Death Sentences Handed Down in Airport Bombing Case

NC2605160893 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Algiers, May 26 (AFP)—A special court here handed down 38 death sentences Wednesday [26 May] afternoon on defendants charged with a bomb attack on Algiers airport that killed nine and injured 123 last August.

Twelve of the death sentences were imposed on defendants present in court while the remaining 26 were handed down to absconded defendants, including three children of Abbassi Madani, the president of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front.

Names, Sentences Given

LD2705091493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Algiers special judicial council yesterday passed death sentences on the 38 people found guilty by the court on charges of being involved in the airport case. Only 12 of these were in court. The pronouncement of the final verdicts comes after 22 days of public sessions in connection with the blowing up of Houari Boumediene International Airport.

Details of the sentences are given in this report by radio correspondent Mohamed Chelouch:

[Chelouch] The council passed death sentences on 38 of the accused. Of these, 26 were absent, and 12 present, those were: Hocine Abderrahim, Hchaichi Rachid, Fennouh Karim, Soussan Said, Imad Mohamed, Boulesbaa Youcef, Mansouri Maliani, Djamal Eddine Askari, Tahri Belkacem, Bakour Mabrouk, Tchikou Djamal, and Darahmoun Ahmed Bey.

Among those sentenced to death in absentia, I would mention the brothers Abassi Salem, Ousama and Ikbal; Rabah Kebir; Abdelkader Chebouti; and Said Makhloufi.

The council acquitted Ben Azouz Zebda, Guernan Fateh, and Matlou Mohamed.

Other sentences range between one and 20 years' imprisonment. Thus Mouaki Bannani Ziad was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, Rouabhi Mohamed Khalil to three years, Tahri Djamaledine and Harizi Lakhdar to five years, Tahri Madjid to six years, and Belhouari Sid Ali to seven years.

Rabhi Yamar, Tibani Said, and Hassan Mesbah were given sentences of 10 years, and Haddach Sid Ali and Chenaiet Bouallam received 20 years.

During its deliberations, the council found only four of the accused guilty of actual, direct participation in the crime of blowing up the airport: Hocine Abderrahim, Hchaichi Rachid, Boulesbaa Youcef, and Fennouh Karim. Imad Mohamed was found guilty of indirect participating in the crime by helping the perpetrators.

Concerning the others present who were sentenced to death, the council confirmed the charges of inciting citizens to carry arms against state security, belonging to an armed group, spreading killing and destruction, hiding criminals, possessing forbidden weapons, and heading armed gangs. These charges were leveled against all those sentenced to death. Some were also found guilty of taking part in the aggression with the aim of destroying the governing regime: Hocine Abderrahim, Imad Mohamed, Hchaichi Rachid, Boulesbaa Youcef, and Fennouh Karim.

Concerning Mansouri Maliani, the council confirmed the charges of incitement to carry arms against state security, forming an armed group, heading an armed gang, and carrying forbidden weapons.

Because of mitigating circumstances the council ordered 13 of the accused to be released as innocent. They include Ben Azouz Zebda, Guernan Fateh, and Matlou Mohamed.

A judgement of mitigating circumstances also benefitted three others of the accused for whom the public prosecution had demanded the death sentence; Belhouari Sid Ali was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, Chenaiet Bouallam to 20 years, and Harizi Lakhdar to five years.

Prosecutor Denies Assassin To Stand Trial in June

LD2605222793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] A communique issued by Algiers's public prosecutor stated: We have been astonished by some newspapers which reported the news of Boumaarafi Lambarek's trial to be held at the end of June 1993. Therefore, we inform the citizens that this news is groundless and a mere rumor. The case of the late President Boudiaf is still under judicial investigation, and we will inform the general public of the trial date when its time comes.

Egypt

Mubarak Views Local, Foreign Issues

NC2605190093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1612 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Husni Mubarak discussed several domestic and foreign issues during his meeting today with journalists, marking the journalists' 10th anniversary.

The information minister said that during the discussion of domestic issues, President Mubarak referred to two points: the first is economic reform and its link with the social aspect, and the second is the slum areas.

On the first point, the president explained that the economic reform policy has considered the social dimension, although all the international institutions attempt to affect this dimension from a purely economic view.

The president said the difficult part of the equation was that there was no substitute for economic reform policy, noting the difficulties that would have faced us if we had not launched economic reform.

He cited as an example the former Soviet Union, which launched economic reform belatedly and without scientific planning that placed the social dimension in the correct context. This led to great leap in prices, which the nation could not bear.

The information minister said the president explained that from the beginning he did not hide the truth from the people, rather he presented them with it and explained to the people from the beginning that we must bear the difficulties and that reform has difficult side effects.

The president noted the difficulty in reaching agreement with international institutions and that Egypt not only clung to the economic dimension but also put into consideration the social aspect and the gradual bearing of the burdens over five years. The whole struggle in the reform process is taking care of this aspect and making sure that it is in line with economic transformation so that the ordinary and disadvantaged citizens can bear the effects of this reform policy.

As for the slum areas, President Mubarak asked: Was Egypt waiting for the earthquake to happen in order for it to consider the slums an issue and place them on the development map and on the road to confronting and improving them? These areas, the president said, are fertile place for the growth of extremism, whether this extremism is intellectual, social, or moral.

He said: We had our priorities, and you know that our resources are limited. We are not a rich country, and there is a dreadful increase in population. He added: If the population growth continues at this rate, no one can predict what will Egypt be like in 10 years. We have ugly examples in countries such as Somalia and elsewhere, which suffer serious deterioration as a result of population growth, lack of resources, and corruption. [passage omitted]

The president commented on the cabinet reshuffling he had announced and whether it will be a change in people or in the structure and form of the state. He said that he had previously mentioned that the reshuffling will take place after July and that it will happen at the appropriate time, a time dictated by circumstances and public interest. He added that the change will not affect people alone because changing people is governed by performance, competence, experience, and ability.

The president said that he reads all views written on this issue. As for the form of the cabinet, whether by changing it or by adding to it, every state has its own structures that keep in mind good performance and goals and the good presentation and implementation of policies.

The president pointed out that the current cabinet has performed honorable work for Egypt in economic reform through a well-studied plan. He said that this cabinet has carried out its task, for which it deserves to be thanked. He added: We should not belittle them or attack the cabinet members, as happens in some media or newspapers. He noted that they bear the responsibility and sacrifice their time for the sake of public interest and service.

President Mubarak said we are not considering forming a cabinet with few or many ministers. We focus on public interest, and we entertain no personal purposes or whims in choosing ministers, no matter what the relationship. [passage omitted]

On the problem of terrorism, President Mubarak noted that there are several reasons behind terrorism and that the phenomenon of terrorism is not confined to Egypt. The whole world—rich and poor—is facing various forms of terrorism, he said. He noted that a large number of terrorists are motivated by money and have sold their consciences. He stressed that religion has nothing to do with these people and that the government is using all means to address terrorism and protect our youth. He stressed that those who use weapons are confronted by the law and security organs. He said that the methods of confronting terrorism are not random, but objective and carefully planned. [passage omitted]

The information minister stated that President Mubarak emphasized that the broad base of the Egyptian people are not involved in extremism and that the extremists are limited in number. He stressed that all factions of the people are confronting extremists and that it is only natural that stability will prevail.

President Mubarak stressed the importance of small industry, noting the social fund's role in establishing projects for the youths.

On terrorism, President Mubarak noted that certain countries earmark funds to export their revolution and under whose name they export terrorism. He said: "Let them keep their revolution for themselves. The Islamic world does not need the custodianship of anyone."

On ties with Iran, President Mubarak said that Egypt welcomes relations with Iran as long as it does not interfere in our domestic affairs or try to harm our security and stability. We welcome relations with all countries of the world, including Iran, he said.

On ties with South Africa, President Mubarak said that Egypt is committed to the African summit resolutions, noting that Egypt is a close friend of all African countries. He said that although certain European countries have ties with South Africa, we honor the OAU's unanimous resolutions.

On his visit to Eritrea, President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt supported the Eritrean people's struggle for more than 30 years. He noted that he participated in Eritrea's independence celebrations because Eritrea is an African country that has a role in the Arab arena in the future.

On attempts to strike at tourism, President Mubarak said that the tourism sector is not only tourists. Anyone who strikes at tourism strikes at all Egyptians and their livelihood. He noted how the sites he visited in Luxor and the people there were affected by attacks on tourists. He said: "Not only tourist sites, but all Egypt, its sons, and means of living were affected."

On the confrontation of extremism, President Mubarak said: We are acting in accordance with the law, and we decisively confront any violation of the law. He stressed that the state is responsible for protecting the citizens and the country against all forms of terrorism.

Asked whether there will be any further burdens as a result of the economic reforms and if the salary increase will be accompanied by price increases, the president said that he always reveals facts and never tries to conceal them. He said: We have already borne the greatest burdens of the economic reforms, and for the majority of the people, the burdens this year or in the coming years may be comparatively insignificant. Essential commodities and basic requirements will not be affected.

The president said he tries as much as he can to make any burden bearable for ordinary citizens. He said he does not make any economic decision affecting society unless it is indispensable.

Mubarak noted the trouble to which the government goes to conclude agreements with international institutions. We must know, he said, that any slight price increase is not introduced unless it is unavoidable.

He said: "I wish to see all people happy, without burdens or suffering."

He said this year and the next years will pass without problems, God willing.

On his moves and his Gulf tour's objectives of clearing the Arab atmosphere and achieving Arab solidarity, the president said that every Arab country has its own circumstances and the right to take a position appropriate for its security. He said he completely understands the situations of the brother countries and that his Gulf tour was part of a series of visits. He said he and all Arab leaders agree on the higher Arab interests and that any agreement and any accord is in the interest of the Arabs and the security and stability of the region.

The president pointed out that Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait are special and outstanding. Those countries know Egypt's position and weight in the region and in Arab issues, he said.

He stressed that Arab reconciliation needs some time and cannot be achieved in a single tour. He said it needs many visits and preparation of public opinion and of Arab souls.

The president said that acceptance for Arab reconciliation is now better than before. He said we have to remember how long it took Arab-Egyptian relations to be restored after they were broken without a reason. This, he noted, although Egypt did not occupy any Arab land, but regained an Arab right and restored its land.

Mubarak explained the ambitions of the forces attempting to control the Gulf states and the impact of this on Egypt. He stressed that Egypt and the Gulf are facing the same challenges and that the security of Egypt and the Gulf is one and the same thing.

Mubarak stressed that Egypt does not pursue the policy of blocs, adding that Egypt has status and is eager to have good relations with all countries and with those in the region, including Iran.

On the freedom to establish political parties, the president said that there are now 14 parties in Egypt and that the law governs the formation of parties.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the president said he cares about Egypt's relations with Sudan, adding that whenever an internal problem faces the present Sudanese regime or faced the former regimes, a dispute with Egypt has been raised and a problem created so that the regime could boost its position or get out of a tight situation before the Sudanese citizens. The president noted that 4 million Sudanese citizens are living respectfully in Egypt. He also explained how the Sudanese regime is coming under pressure from and is being led by the Islamic Front, which interferes in the decision-making process.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained in this regard the recent escalations made by the Sudanese side and the declaration of a general mobilization. The president reiterated that we will never fight

Sudan and will never fire a bullet at a Sudanese. He said: Egypt and Sudan are one people. The only thing I warned against is the presence of a foreign military base in Port Sudan as this would affect national security. I have to take the proper decision in such a case.

Mubarak noted measures taken by Sudan, such as the seizure of schools and the Khartoum branch of Cairo University and the announcement of the fabricated story about Egypt halting an oil tanker that was passing through the Suez Canal en route to Sudan. He stressed that nothing of the sort had happened because Egypt cannot do such a thing according to the Constantinople Convention, by which we abide.

Mubarak went on to say: That announcement was attributed to the Sudanese foreign minister, but it then transpired that he had not made such a statement. The aim was to tell the Sudanese people that Egypt wants to put you in a critical position and deprive you of oil and, hence, pin the rise in price on this story.

Mubarak stressed that Egypt does not interfere in Sudan's affairs and that anything published about this is not true. He said that Egypt has never intervened in Sudan's affairs but, on the contrary, has supported the Sudanese regime at the Arab and international levels without the least intervention.

The president explained the issue of the so-called coup, noting that Egypt does not think of intervening in Sudan's affairs.

On the false allegations made against members of the Egyptian Embassy, namely that they are operating against Sudan, the president said this issue is completely baseless.

Mubarak said that Egypt is not fighting the Sudanese people and is not thinking at all of firing a single bullet at a Sudanese citizen. He added: We will stay silent despite the violations committed by the Sudanese media.

On Iraq, Terrorism, Economy

NC2605202993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak reiterated today that he is aiming to establish good relations with all countries without exception. He said: This applies to Iran on condition that it does not intervene in our internal affairs or seek to control our region.

He added that Egypt can today help resolve regional and international conflicts through its good relations with all countries. He went on to say that Egypt's word is listened to by the Arab brothers and is acceptable to the United States and Israel and is therefore playing an effective role in finding a lasting solution acceptable to all parties. He added: We are not imposing anything on the Palestinians but are endeavoring to make them obtain their rights.

In his meeting today with Egyptian editors, writers, and intellectuals, Mubarak stressed that he did not allow any planes to land or take off from any Egyptian airport during the Gulf war to strike Iraq or the Iraqi forces because of Egypt's Arabism. The president said that despite his opposition to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's policy, he warned former U.S. President George Bush against the use of force to topple the head of a state or enter Baghdad since the road was open for the U.S. forces that took part in the Gulf war to enter it and remove the Iraqi president and regime. He added that he explained to the former U.S. president that such an action would be considered an insult to the international community and that the Arab peoples would never forgive the United States for doing it. He went on to say that former President Bush admitted this when he said that some of our friends advised us not to complete the move to the center of Baghdad to topple the Iraqi president and regime.

Regarding the internal situation, President Mubarak said that the wave of terrorism is not the responsibility of the government alone but the responsibility of the people, parties, and government, because terrorism is not targeting specific governmental symbols but is aimed at destroying Egypt's economic structure and killing innocent people with the resulting loss of livelihood for large sectors of the toiling Egyptian people.

The president said that he is not opposed to the formation of a domestic front comprising the various Egyptian parties and leaderships to confront terrorism on condition that this front does not turn to other secondary issues and matters such as amending the constitution because raising such issues at this time while we are still in the phase of economic reconstruction and strengthening democracy will create a climate of differences, divisions, in- fighting which we can do without now. He added that such issues can be raised for discussion in the future when our country's conditions allow.

Mubarak then reviewed the economic reform measures taken in Egypt and stressed that he has always taken the social dimensions into account when deciding on the economic reform steps. He added that he refused to let the Egyptian citizen suffer from the demands of the IMF which insisted on increasing the energy prices, both electricity and gas, by 90 percent a year for a period of between three and five years. [passage omitted]

Musa on Bosnian War Tribunal, Peace Process

NC2605143393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the Security Council's resolution to set up an international tribunal to try war criminals in Serbia is an important step toward trying and punishing the criminals who have committed the crime of ethnic cleansing, which is a war crime and a crime against humanity.

He said that the Security Council resolution needs to be followed up and implemented so that it does not remain a mere resolution for removing feelings of anger, adding that the trial of the criminals is the important thing and not the resolution itself.

The foreign minister stressed that the way the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem is being dealt with is bad and that it raises many questions about the true intentions of the recent developments on this issue.

Concerning the reports about the possibility that peace treaties will be reached by Israel and the concerned Arab countries in the coming stage, Musa said that the possibility exists, but for it to be achieved in the coming stage and in the way published in the media is a lot of press exaggeration. But he expressed hope that progress will soon be made.

Regarding the meeting of the foreign ministers of the five Arab countries concerned with the peace process, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the meeting will be held after the blessed 'Id al-Adha [31 May] and contacts are under way to set the date.

On the South African foreign minister's visit to Egypt and the possibility of restoring relations between the two countries, Musa said that this is not possible now. He added: What has been raised are issues related to developments in South Africa, the transitional stage, changing the constitution, and the elections. The issue of restoring relations will come later.

South African Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

NC2605201593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1803 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof Botha said that Egypt's chairing of the OAU for a second term comes at an important time when Africa is witnessing important events that affect the OAU itself. This places a special responsibility on Egypt to confront these events. He noted that there are major internal disputes in numerous African countries. At a news conference today, Botha described his visit to Cairo as very important. He noted that he held constructive talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Botha said that the first free elections will be held in South Africa next year after a democratic government has been formed. He noted that the situation in Africa does not call for optimism because of the severe economic problems that resulted from the advanced countries' interest in limiting armament, eliminating weapons of mass destruction, and protecting the environment, as well as the collapse of the communist bloc and channeling of the large powers' aid to Russia and the East European countries.

Botha said that Egypt in the north and South Africa in the south can play an important role, along with certain African countries such as Kenya and Nigeria, in strengthening economic cooperation throughout Africa, expanding economic growth, and settling domestic disputes.

Botha said that he briefed Musa on the steps his country intends to take in the future. He said that his visit to Cairo is not linked to joining the OAU, noting that South Africa will join it at the proper time. He said that his visit is not aimed at establishing diplomatic relations with Egypt, noting that they will be established at the proper time.

Botha stressed the important role played by the private sector in both countries. He noted that he visited the al-'Ashir Min Ramadan city earlier today and held talks with Egyptian businessmen. He said that an Egyptian delegation of businessmen will visit South Africa next month. He said that South Africa opened 17 trade representation offices in African countries. He noted that there are direct flights between South Africa and the Gulf countries. He said that when his country establishes ties with the Arab countries, its ties with Israel will become their normal size. He stressed that his country is working to stop acts of violence and is committed to the UN secretary general's resolution that calls on all parties to put an end to acts of violence in South Africa. Botha's visit to Egypt lasted three days.

Concludes Visit

NC2705062893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha left Cairo this evening for home after a three-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on a number of African issues. Musa saw Botha off at Cairo airport.

Need Seen for Israel To Accept 'Full Partner' Plan

NC2605152693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Full Partnership"]

[Text] The United States is exploiting the halting of the peace talks in search of a joint plan with Russia—they are the cosponsors—to take part in the negotiations rather than stay away from them. The plan will enable the two countries to play a positive role at the negotiating table and to present conciliatory proposals or compromises if disagreements or arguments arise.

It seems the plan has been triggered by events during the last stages of the ninth round, when the United States prepared a 10-point plan to reconcile the Israeli and Palestinian plans for self-rule. But when the United States attended the final round to submit its proposal officially, the Palestinian delegation did not show up, in protest against the proposal being presented first to Israel and amended to please Israel alone.

But the idea that the cosponsors should participate was proposed before and rejected by Israel. Tel Aviv has even deprived the United States of the right to unilaterally play the role of full partner or carry out positive mediation efforts between the two sides, since the negotiations concern the principal sides alone.

But the complication of the situation, the divergence of views between the Arab and Israeli delegations, Israeli procrastination, the emergency created by additional obstacles being placed by Israel, such as the deportees crisis and the escalation of suppression in the occupied territories, and the need to achieve progress meant the United States had to play a more realistic and practical role in the arena. If we add to all this the recent breakthrough that was reflected by the United States possibly participating in the last sessions of the ninth round, we could say the participation proposal might be effective and fruitful this time.

It remains for the United States to convince Israel of this proposal. This might necessitate trying it out at the start of the 10th round.

'Initiative' To Rescue Peace Talks

NC2705065893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM points out that Egypt has submitted to the United States several ideas and proposals that could provide the basis for a practical working paper that could help lead to a joint declaration of principles among the parties taking part in the peace talks. The paper notes that the Egyptian move has come in light of Egypt's relations with all the parties, its eagerness to maintain the peace process, and its responsibility as a full partner.

In a commentary published today, the paper describes this step as an initiative of a particular nature that can be built upon. It constitutes an important move in the common efforts to make the talks successful. It is also a new method of active involvement that increases the chances of convergence during the talks and reassures the negotiating parties that a new and positive element that can be relied upon in the negotiations has been introduced. The paper notes that the timing of the Egyptian initiative, or gesture, is extremely significant, coming at a time when the negotiations are at a delicate turn that could prove to be decisive. The paper adds that the fact that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, is the one who conveyed the initiative shows Egypt's extreme interest in rescuing the talks from any failure. It also revives the hopes of the negotiators and increases their enthusiasm before the new round of talks, the paper concludes.

Arab Action To Help Iraqi People Urged

NC2605145593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 May 93 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "When Will the Secretary General Begin?"]

[Text] We don't know when the Arab League secretary general will begin his moves to effect an Arab reconciliation. We don't know how long the Arab League secretariat will wait for the right timing to start its efforts to restore Arab solidarity. Similarly, we do not know the point reached by Arab League efforts with Iraq to return the Kuwaiti prisoners to their families and relatives—a tragic issue that affects every Kuwaiti family and also Arab honor and dignity. Last but not least, we do not know how long the Arab League will continue to wash its hands of the issue of the Security Council's continuing imposition of economic sanctions and siege on the Iraqi people, despite the Iraqi regime being forced to withdraw all its forces and Kuwait again becoming a liberated and sovereign state.

All of these questions will worry the Arab public until a definite and authoritative statement is issued by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. No observer doubts this man's wide experience, tact, pan-Arab feeling, good intentions, and full realization of the gravity of the current phase in inter-Arab relations.

We add the following additional fundamental question to those above. When will the Arab League secretary general visit the Iraqi capital Baghdad to show the Iraqi people—not its rulers—that the Arab nation will not forget the people in their tribulation and that it stands with it until the distress passes? According to our information, the secretary general has visited every Arab capital except Baghdad.

We are not here to defend the Iraqi regime. Its invasion of Kuwait was an unforgivable sin the consequences of which the Arab nation will suffer for years. But we are talking frankly and asking whether the secretary general's visit to Baghdad will be a deviation from Arab convention. Does a visit by the secretary general to Baghdad need all these preparations and unanimous Arab approval? If the answer is yes, which it is not, then we say this visit will not take place until after the downfall of Baghdad and the partition of Iraq, God forbid.

We do not want to burden the secretary general with more than he can carry. We would not have demanded this of him had it not been for our confidence that he can shoulder the responsibility and for our knowledge that he prefers quiet action through a diplomacy that does not publicize itself. Despite knowing that the secretary general has started contacts with the Arab capitals to disperse all these clouds, we ask him to undertake an unprecedented initiative that reflects the gravity of the crisis in the Arab homeland.

President Mubarak prepared the climate for clearing the Arab air during his recent visit to the Gulf capitals. Moroccan King Hassan II has also made efforts. In addition to a responsible pan-Arab stance taken by United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan out of his patriotic feelings, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has also paved the way. When Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid acts now, he will be carrying with him the persistent Arab demand for Arab solidarity, which has suffered a lethal hit.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid announced a few weeks ago some of the principal outlines of his moves. He stressed that the Arab nation's objectives cannot be achieved without a commitment to the principle of frankness before reconciliation. On the second anniversary of Kuwait's liberation, the secretary general said that anyone who has wronged his brothers should hasten to repair the damage he has caused. He noted that a senior Iraqi official recently announced the closure of the Kuwaiti file. He added that this requires Iraq to implement all the resolutions of international legitimacy in full—from the demarcation of borders through compensation to the return of Kuwaiti prisoners.

We support all the secretary general's demands. We appreciate how deep the Kuwaiti psychology has been wounded by a mad adventure that violated all norms and charters. Yes, frankness is demanded, and the Iraqi regime must pay for its sins. It must show its good intentions today, not tomorrow. This step can only be taken by releasing the Kuwaiti prisoners and returning them to their families. This step will succeed only when the Kuwaiti file has been closed. The Iraqi regime is required to issue an official statement renewing its recognition of the State of Kuwait and the demarcation of the border so that the Kuwaiti wound can be healed.

We know the issue is not easy, but the solutions lie in the Iraqi regime's hand. In as much as we call for full Arab guarantees for the State of Kuwait to prevent a recurrence of events, we will keep reiterating that there must be an end to the Iraqi people's tribulation and suffering. The Arab League has a major role to play in alleviating this suffering. We still feel that there is grave danger threatening fraternal Iraq. The danger of partition and fragmentation remains. We ask why the Arab League does not intervene officially with the Security Council to lift the sanctions and siege imposed on the Iraqi people?

We know the Arab countries oppose the partitioning and fragmentation of Iraq. But the plot of fragmenting Iraq won't be prevented by issuing official statements, but through a programmed action that clears up Arab relations and restores to us both Arab Iraq and Kuwait. This is the Arab League secretary general's job and responsibility; he is qualified for this arduous task.

Six of Minister's Attackers Receive Death Sentence

NC2705094193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today sentenced to death six of the defendants in the case of the assassination attempt against Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The court sentenced two defendants to a life term with hard labor, one defendant to 10 years hard labor, and acquitted two others.

In its session held today, the Supreme Military Court sentenced to death in absentia first defendant Musatafa Hasan Hamzah, who is at large. Second defendant Hasan Ramadan Shalaqani, third defendant Ibrahim Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Al, fourth defendant Ahmad Husayn al-Husayni, fifth defendant Tariq 'Abd-al-Raziq Hasan, and sixth defendant Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim also received the death sentence. The eighth and ninth defendants, Hasan Muhammad al-Sayyid and Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad al-Sayyid, were given a life term with hard labor, while seventh defendant Husam Mahmud Ahmad 'Abd-al-Latif was given 10 years with hard labor. The court acquitted two defendants: 13th defendant Ahmad Muhammad Sadiq Khamis and 14th defendant Marzuq Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al. The court also dismissed the case against three defendants who are at large; namely, 10th defendant Ashraf, 11th defendant Mustaf, and 12th defendant Idris [name as received] since their lawsuit was not filed in conformity with the law.

Policemen, Others Wounded in Cairo Bomb, Shooting Attack

NC2705085093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] A responsible security source has stated that at approximately 0200 today an explosive device was detonated while a minibus was being checked at a police checkpoint at Mustafa al-Nahhas street, leading to the al-Qattamiyah area, in al-Hayy al-'Ashir area in Madinat al-Nasr [in Cairo], wounding a citizen and his wife who were in their private car and happened to be passing. A police officer and a policeman from the force manning the checkpoint were slightly wounded. Another security man sustained a broken leg. The wounded were taken to the hospital to receive immediate treatment. Leading officials from the Ministry of Interior and the criminal laboratory arrived at the scene to investigate the incident.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0759 GMT adds in a Cairo-datelined report: "A police officer and a number of policemen were injured when terrorists opened fire at them at dawn today at a police checkpoint set up to arrest them in the al-Hayy al-'Ashir area of Madinat al-Nasr. The policemen were standing at a checkpoint in pursuit of terrorists and were searching the vehicles passing through the area. Some terrorists riding

a taxi got out of the car to be searched, but they surprised the checkpoint force by throwing an explosive device and opening fire. Security men have arrested some people at the scene of the incident suspected of being responsible for it. Strict security measures were adopted and a search was mounted to look for the attackers."]

Border Guard Commander on Arms, Drug Trafficking

NC2605204893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Staff Major General 'Ali Hifzi Muhammad Hifzi, commander of the border guard forces, has affirmed that the site where the tourist bus incident occurred yesterday between Aswan and Abu Sunbul is an area of smuggling and infiltration. He said that 40 infiltrating cars have been seized in that area in the last two months and that some of these cars carried arms, drugs, and infiltrators.

The border guard commander held a news conference at noon today to mark the border guards' anniversary. He said that when asked to stop, the tourist bus driver refused to comply and increased his speed. Border guard personnel in that area became suspicious about what the bus was carrying and were forced to shoot at it. He noted the need for cooperation among all agencies to prevent the repetition of such an incident.

He pointed out that control has been tightened on arms smuggling from the southern borders, that the area there is under full control, and that arms smuggling from there has stopped.

He asserted that there is no friction between the Egyptian Armed Forces personnel and the Sudanese brothers in Hala'ib and that ties of love and affection link the Egyptian and Sudanese nations.

He said that border guard forces last year discovered operations to smuggle arms, drugs, and contraband worth 300 million Egyptian pounds. He added that the amount of drugs seized is worth 280 million pounds and include 2,420 kg of hashish, 18 kg of heroin, and 19 kg of opium. Five-hundred feddans planted with narcotic crops were discovered and seized in Sinai. He noted that the border guard forces have prevented the entry of drugs from aboard, which prompted drug traffickers to attempt to grow narcotics inside the country.

He said that smuggled merchandise worth 8 million pounds, 46 infiltrating cars worth 4.5 million pounds, and 19 priceless archaeological pieces have been seized, in addition to foiling attempts to smuggle 84 tons of fish. Furthermore, 120 infiltrators, including 61 Egyptians, have been arrested.

He emphasized that the border guard forces' role is multidimensional and has important effects on national security. It is not confined to military aspects but extends to cover economic and social aspects of the society's security. He praised the border guard forces' great role and distinguished performance, which they carry out in silence and without propaganda.

Hundreds Arrested; Arms Seized in Upper Egypt

NC2605200993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1844 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Police agencies in the security directorates in central and south Upper Egypt launched search campaigns in the governorates of Asyut, Suhaj, Qina, Aswan, al-Bahr al-Ahmar, and the al-Wadi al-Jadid between 20 and 25 May. A responsible security source has stated that these sweeps were aimed at the areas rife with vendettas, crime centers, and the dens of terrorism and extremism to put them under control, curtail hostile activists, and seize arms and fleeing defendants and those whose involvement in recent events has been proven. The campaigns also sought to restore discipline to traffic and utilities, secure regular distribution of supplies, and maintain proper behavior.

The source said that during the campaign 24 Lancaster, Bren, and Bur Sa'id machine guns, 296 automatic and semiautomatic rifles, 98 sawed-off rifles, 181 cartridge rifles, 118 pistols of various brands, 716 Russian-made revolvers, 1336 bullets of various calibers, and 21 magazines have been seized. The source noted that 115 convicts, who were sentenced to life imprisonment or jail terms, have been seized. The arrests involved nine drug cases, 11 public funds cases, four explosives cases, 297 supply cases, 275 cases involving public morality and juveniles, and 2,595 cases involving traffic and utilities. Hundreds of other suspects and activists, including fleeing convicts in cases in Suhaj, were arrested. A locally made revolver was seized from one of these suspects. These operations were supervised by assistant minister for central security, security directors, the public security director, and the director for state security. All agencies of security directorates continue their efforts to establish security and eliminate attempts to break the law.

Columnist Urges 'Renewal' in Third Presidency

NC2605122693 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 22 May 93 p 16

["A Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] The third presidency [al-riyasah al-thalithah] must be a renewal, not a repetition of Egypt's political life. The future must be different, and the people must feel they are moving ahead, not frozen in one place. Those who stand still don't move forward, but backward.

The people are primarily demanding free elections in which they can express themselves, impose their will, and determine their position. They no longer accept prearranged elections, forged referendums, single-party polls, and single-party governors. All parties must be given equal opportunities, without pressure or coercion.

The people want a free press in the full sense: no shackles, restrictions, dictates, or guidance. They want the chief editors to be elected by the editors, not appointed by the government. They want every citizen to enjoy the right to publish a newspaper if he wishes, even if it is only read by one person. We do not want the bizarre press law that says the newspaper must possess 200,000 pounds and have more than 100 owners to have the right to publish. We want the poor to have the right to publish their newspapers.

We do not want the Higher Press Council with its limited powers. We want a council that safeguards freedom and prevents despotism, one that does not suspend newspapers, but protects their freedom and independence.

During the third presidency, we want one or more vice presidents to be appointed to achieve stability. We want the people to feel safe with the presence of firm institutions that are unshakable by the wind.

We want the infamous laws to be canceled, notably the emergency law. It is inconceivable for the country to be ruled for more than 13 years by martial law and exceptional decrees. We want the country to enjoy ordinary civil rule like other countries that are not ruled by steel and fire.

We should not use terrorism as a pretext. Many countries are experiencing terrorism without martial law being imposed and are witnessing incidents while still governed by ordinary civil laws. A U.S. president was assassinated without the country knowing a day of martial law. Indira Ghandi and her son were assassinated without India knowing emergency laws or the suspension of the Constitution.

We believe ordinary rule will create stability and security, eliminate terrorism, and prevent bribery and the abuse of power.

We want to try fresh air in the third presidency. We have tried shutting the doors and windows for 12 years.

Nasirite Party Leader Interviewed on Activities

NC2705103193 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 May 93 p 13

[Interview with Diya'-al-Din Dawud, secretary general of the Nasirite Democratic Arab Party, by an unidentified correspondent "at the sidelines of the Fourth Pan-Arab Conference recently held in Beirut;" date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHIRA'] What are the latest activities of the Nasirite Democratic Arab Party at both the party and mass levels?

[Dawud] The party held a conference for trade union leaders in early May to adopt a position rejecting the sale of the public sector. The conference collected signatures from the labor base and from citizens to support this position, and it obtained authorization to speak for labor unionists in the public sector units that were sold. The conference took legal action contesting the constitutionality of the law under which those units were sold. Courts are currently looking into there cases.

[AL-SHIRA'] What about the newspaper that the party intends to publish?

[Dawud] The party will publish a weekly called AL-'URUBAH as of 14 June. Its chief editor will be Mahmud al-Muraghi, and he will be assisted by Muhammad 'Awdah, 'Abdallah Imam, and Jalal 'Arif. AL- 'URUBAH will be published daily as of 23 July, with 'Abdallah Imam as its chief editor. Muhammad 'Awdah, Mahmud al-Muraghi, Jalal 'Arif, and other prominent Nasirist journalists and writers will assist.

[AL-SHIRA'] We have noticed that you are attending the Fourth Pan-Arab Conference with Farid 'Abd-al-Karim. Have your differences been resolved—at least at the personal level?

[Dawud] I would like to stress that our relations are normal and that there is no longer any problem between us. Farid 'Abd-al-Karim is a leading figure in the party and is participating in all its decisions and activities. Personal contacts between us did not stop even during the dispute.

Liberal Party Leader Discusses Brotherhood Alliance, Paper

NC2605142993 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 20-26 May 93 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish]

[Text] The Liberal Party [LP] of Mustafa Kamil Murad appears to have reversed a decision, reported by the party's newspaper four months ago, to withdraw from the tripartite alliance forged in 1987 with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and Ibrahim Shukri's Socialist Labour Party [SLP]. The apparent reversal coincided with a decision taken by the general SLP congress affirming the alliance with the Brotherhood (see AL-AHRAM WEEKLY of 13-19 May).

The Liberals went further by leasing, in effect, one of the party's newspapers, AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH (Arab Family), to the Brotherhood, thus effectively turning it into a Brotherhood mouthpiece.

Interviewed by AL-AHRAM WEEKLY, Murad said that at no time did the LP discontinue the alliance with the Brotherhood and the SLP. "All that happened is that some members of the party's presidential council argued that the alliance has not served its purpose. We, at our meetings, are democratic; we do not muzzle anybody who seeks to express his viewpoint."

Reminded that the party's newspaper AL-AHRAR has published a story about the Liberals' decision to withdraw from the alliance, Murad said: "If such a story was published, then it must have been a mistake. But I

believe that the story published by the newspaper merely referred to the fact that some members of the party's presidential council demanded that the alliance be continued," Murad said.

"Moreover, there are points of agreement between us and the Brotherhood, particularly regarding Islamic shari'ah being the principal source of legislation. Consequently, we cannot discontinue the alliance with them," Murad said.

He described the Brotherhood as a reality, whether we choose to recognise it or not. "Our position is that we should help all political forces express their views," Murad said. "But we are not leasing our newspaper to them... We opened the pages of our newspapers to the Brotherhood as well as to the communists, Nasserists, and socialists... This does not mean that we, as a party, do not have our own identity, independent character and method of action. Although we differ with the Brotherhood on several points, this does not prevent us from giving them the opportunity to express their viewpoint."

Asked whether it was "democratic" to allow an outlawed organisation, such as the Brotherhood, to air its views freely on the pages of the LP newspapers, Murad said: "The Muslim Brotherhood is a reality in the political arena. We do not acknowledge the law that prohibits it from exercising political activity. This law is unconstitutional because the Constitution provides for freedom of expression. We demand that this law be annulled."

Murad denied that the Brotherhood paid money to the LP in return for allowing its leaders to publish articles in AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH. He also denied that Brotherhood leaders "did what they wanted" with the newspaper. "All they are doing is publishing their views on the pages of the newspaper," Murad said. "There are also articles by members of the Liberal Party."

To the charge that all articles appearing in the newspaper, including those by the editor-in-chief, reflected the position of the Brotherhood, Murad insisted that the articles written by the chief editor reflected the position of the LP.

Asked whether the time will come when the LP may be absorbed by the Brotherhood, Murad replied: "No. We have an independent character and independent organisations and we do not need to be absorbed into any group. This does not run counter to the democratic principle, in which we believe, which is to allow all political forces to express their views... Then, what do the Brotherhood writers say in their articles? Very ordinary things. And what did they do when they were members of the People's Assembly? They merely talked. Well, do you wish to deny people the right to express their views?"

Does this mean that the alliance is alive and well? "Yes," Murad replied, "and it will continue that way as long as we act according to the platform of the 1987 parliamentary elections. In fact, I expect that one day we will have a coalition cabinet in Egypt, because we are facing big problems with which no one party can cope single-handed."

Opposition MP Denied Saudi Visa for Hajj

LD2505190293 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Saudi authorities refused to grant hajj (pilgrimage) visa to the general-secretary of the opposition Socialist Labour Party in Egypt, 'Adil Husayn.

Egyptian Islamic bi-weekly paper AL-SHA'B Tuesday said one of its journalists Ahmad al-Suyufi was also declined hajj visa.

'Adil Husayn last week resigned as the editor-in-chief of AL-SHA'B after he was elected as the general-secretary of the Labour Party.

"We could not think that Saudi authorities would refuse to grant visa to important Islamic personalities like 'Adil Husayn. We hope that King Fahd will intervene to stop his government from mixing political positions with hajj affairs and umrah," Suyufi commented.

"This is a dangerous precedent which we warn of," he added.

Libya

Foreign Minister on Lockerbie Suspects, Mideast Peace

PM2605151793 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 24-30 May 93 pp 4, 5

[Hamid Haydar report: "Libyan Foreign Minister: Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia Offered To Try Lockerbie Suspects"]

[Text] Tehran—Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir revealed in an interview with AL-WASAT that Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, Austria, Malta, and other states expressed willingness to try on their territory the two Libyans suspected of blowing up the U.S. passenger plane over Lockerbie in 1988. But they made it conditional upon the agreement of the United States and Britain. Minister al-Muntasir added that the United States rejected all of the offers to try these two suspects (al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Maqrahi) outside U.S. or British territory. Al-Muntasir pointed out in the interview conducted with him in Tehran after his talks with Iranian officials that "Libyan laws and the political situation do not allow the two Libyan citizens to be tried in the United States, Britain, or France." This is why is why this issue is frozen, he added.

During his visit to Tehran earlier this month, al-Muntasir held talks with Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Iranian parliament. He also delivered a message to

Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

AL-WASAT asked al-Muntasir: What would Libya's position be if the peace negotiations lead to a Palestinian-Israeli agreement? He said: "We support the Palestinian people and what the Palestinian people agree to. We cannot oppose what the Palestinian people agree to. Nor do we make decisions on the Palestinian people's behalf."

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at al-Fatih University Ceremony

LD2705020593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2009 GMT 26 May 93

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a ceremony awarding him an honorary degree at al-Fatih University on 24 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. First of all, I would like to express my thanks and great appreciation to you for bestowing such an honor in awarding me this honorary doctorate. I am very pleased to join you, university teachers and students, and your sphere, the sphere of education and learning, which is the best and noblest of all spheres. [passage omitted]

We have already said that the meeting of the People's Congresses should be postponed until the students have their exams in order that each teacher and each student is able to attend his commune's meetings to discuss the issue of a constitution. We are all aware of the problems facing all constitutions and how they have been manipulated everywhere. Every president would change the constitution to give himself more powers, to take some powers from the prime minister and some powers from the government. The prime minister would also try to do the same. Hence, you can see that constitutions, which should be the basic ordinance that must never be changed, are being manipulated. That is why we have thought that we should not rely upon something that might change tomorrow. We want something which will never change. The Green Book has asserted that the religion and custom of any nation are eternal matters that no one can change because they are the shari'ah. Other matters and decisions can continuously be changed. As far as the shari'ah is concerned, however, we can only rely upon a shari'ah that will never be changed; it must be adhered to by the nation and not by a committee, nor was it created by the latter. No committee has ever said this will be your custom beginning tomorrow at noon. Customs are inherited from generation to generation. We believe in them, and no one has imposed them upon us. The same thing applies to religion. It is a credo; people are prepared to die for it without the necessity of waiting for someone to tell them that they have to do it in accordance with a certain article of the constitution. People would not mind being martyrs for its sake, because they believe in it. The same applies to any religion. This is what we meant in the Green Book by shari'ah.

You should, teachers and students alike, explain to the people of the communes what a shari'ah is and that it does not change. Before we proceed with the examination of the constitution, a lesson should be given on this matter from now on. We should understand, O brothers, that responsibility should go hand in hand with knowledge. People should be knowledgeable before they can shoulder responsibility. We cannot put our fate and the fate of our children in the hands of something that can be changed by someone or by a group that might decide to change something after a meeting is held. A constitution should be like the shari'ah, which no one can change. It should be like the road that goes from here to Cairo, which no one can claim he could change. One could say: The road should go through Malta and Greenland before reaching Cairo. This would be a crazy thing for anyone to say. The road cannot be changed. [passage omitted]

Do not draw up for me that which is temporary to replace the shari'ah, custom, or religion. Thus, if we were going to have a constitution in a country like Libya, in a Jamahiriah system, it would be as I said before. It should not be a point of reference, but only an affirmation of what already exists. It should only stipulate, in its articles, that laws and regulations cannot be based upon anything other than that which never changes and that rights and responsibilities should be as they are described in those things that never change. This is because every one of us knows the religion, the custom, and the norms. Someone might claim that the Green Book has asserted that the Koran is the shari'ah of society. The Green Book has never said this. The Green Book can be implemented in America and China, which do not know anything about the Koran, as well as in Libya. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Greets New Eritrean President

LD2605140593 Rabat MAP in English 1347 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Rabat, May 26 (MAP)—King Hassan II addressed a congratulation message to Issaias Afeworki on the occasion of his election as president of the newly-independent Republic of Eritrea.

"At the moment when the brotherly Eritrean people celebrates your election to rule over its destiny, it gives us great pleasure to convey to your excellency our sincere greetings, warmest congratulations and best wishes," the message said.

"While sharing with you and with the brotherly Eritrean people their joy and happiness for the confidence they have given your excellency, we pray the almighty to grant you assistance, to crown your efforts with success and realise your aspirations of progress and prosperity for

your people, for the unity and glory of the Arab-Islamic nation," the message concluded.

Government Ignores Polisario Statement on Compromise

LD2605185993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Sources close to the Moroccan Government pointed out in Rabat today that Morocco is not paying any attention to the statements made in New York yesterday in New York by the Polisario UN representative to the effect that his movement is prepared to arrive at a reasonable compromise solution with Morocco on the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara.

According to the same source, Mr. Ahmed Boukhari, the Polisario UN representative, had addressed a message to the chairman of the Security Council in which he pointed out that his movement agrees to the search for a new formula for the measures to determine the identity of the voters who will participate in the self-determination referendum due to be organized before the end of this year.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Situation in Hala'ib; Egypt Ties

Al-Bashir on 'New Hostile Actions'

EA2605203693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 26 May (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Wednesday [26 May] revealed that the Egyptian regime has taken new hostile actions in the Hala'ib area.

Al-Bashir, speaking in his regular meeting with mass media leaderships, announced that the Egyptian regime has recently erected a sand embankment and a barbed wire fence along the latitude 22.

The Egyptian regime also established a number of civil installations and [word indistinct] in the area, the RCC chairman said, stressing that these new measures prove the Egyptian regime's insistence to escalate tension in the area. [passage omitted]

Minister on Egyptian Claim

PM2605120493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 May 93 p 6

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn by Maha al-Bashir in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] Khartoum—Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, secretary general of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution Command Council and interior minister, has said that the "Hala'ib area is Sudanese and governed by the 1899 agreement and its amendments. Before the agreement it had never witnessed a dispute or an Egyptian presence, even a mere claim. The Egyptian claim is not supported by legal or historical evidence. In fact it is refuted by the nature of the clear Sudanese presence and life in the area represented in the al-Bashariyyin tribe."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH he emphasized that recent developments in the dispute were caused by Egypt's objection to Sudan's exercise of its sovereign rights in the area. Egypt also sent a complete brigade of its Armed Forces to the area, exploiting a previous Egyptian military presence permitted by the Sudanese Government in the days of the May regime to protect our rear against our common enemy in the past—Israel. [passage omitted]

Asked about the plan to "invade Sudan" which Khartoum said it uncovered, he said: "The first thing we did was to explain the truth to the people and brief accredited diplomatic missions in the Republic of Sudan on the dimensions and details of the plot. All the necessary measures were taken to tackle the situation and protect the homeland and the faith. A political regime around which the people have rallied cannot be removed by force from outside. And I tell those who do not know or pretend not to know that the Sudanese people, owners of the biggest two popular revolutions in contemporary history and owners of the blessed revolution, will not accept any other path except the one they have decided on—God's law.

"We tell the deluded ones: You know of the foreign invasion experience in 1976, and the Sudanese are rushing now to volunteer to defend Hala'ib. And they reject tutelage and foreign intervention." [passage omitted]

Asked whether there was an Arab mediation between Sudan and Egypt, he said: "There are good offices being exerted by some leaders of fraternal Arab states. Sudan is open to such initiatives and always believes that Arab crises should be resolved within the Arab house. All we want is for Egypt's regime to adopt argument and logic and eliminate the causes of tension from the area." [passage omitted]

Beirut Paper Interviews Islamic Front's al-Turabi

NC2605211493

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic on 24 May publishes on pages 31-33 an approximately 2,000-word interview with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front, conducted by Ghassan Bin-Jiddu "during a recent visit to Khartoum."

Al-Turabi is first asked about the "undeclared international blockade" against Sudan and whether it would drive Sudan to abandon the implementation of the

Islamic shari'ah. Noting that attempts at renewal and religious revival have always been met with antagonism, al-Turabi replies: "We are not worried about this economic, military, and media siege imposed by those who seek to extinguish God's light." He says the blockade was, in some way, useful: "Because international economic support for us has been withdrawn, and no longer could we depend on others, we had to rely on God alone and mobilize our economic and agricultural capabilities. The Sudanese are now more productive than before, and they moved from a state of need that almost led them to starvation to self-sufficiency, and, thank God, to production surplus. Concerning the military blockade, it invoked in the Sudanese the spirit of jihad."

Al-Turabi stresses that Sudan "will never" abandon its plans to implement the Islamic shari'ah. He explains that the religious minorities in the country will not be hurt. Asked about the possibility of establishing an international Islamic front, al-Turabi says: "The Islamic front must be born because the Islamic world is healthy and largely free from the seditions of regional and national fanaticism and subservience to nonreligious liberal Western ideology or socialist communism. It is our duty to unify this Islamic awakening." He goes on to say: "I want to say that we do not want this international front in order to back Sudan today, but to realize the upsurge of Islam tomorrow, God willing."

Asked about Egypt's position toward Sudan, al-Turabi says that the Egyptians feel greatly embarrassed that Sudan, which is less advanced and with much less Islamic heritage than Egypt, is ahead of them in the Islamic awakening. He explains: "This is the true reason. The disputed border is not the issue. It was Egypt that demarcated the border between the two countries when it ruled Sudan. We do not care much about borders. Indeed, we do not believe in borders among Muslim countries." Al-Turabi maintains that the West seeks to create problems between Egypt and Sudan "because they believe that relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian people constitute a great danger."

Asked about a statement attributed to him that he recognized Security Council Resolution No. 242 on the Arab-Israeli conflict, al-Turabi denies any such recognition. He says he did not talk about the state of Israel, but about Jews. "I said that we do not want to build our societies against Jews, Christians, or others." Discussing the Arab-Israeli talks, al-Turabi says: "I know that, objectively, the Arabs are now negotiating not for peace, but for capitulation. They are today weaker than they were yesterday when they at least adhered to some original principles regarding the Palestine question. The Arabs are weaker and more divided, while Israel is stronger and its supporters are firmly controlling what they call a new world order." Al-Turabi, however, says he understands the positions of both the PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and says he is eager for good relations between the two.

In conclusion, al-Turabi maintains that the West has hated the Arabs since the crusader and the era of colonization. "The West does not want the world to be led by this nation or by this land, despite the fact that it is from this land that Christianity, Judaism, and Islam were exported to Europe and the world."

'Antigovernment Plans' Found in Omdurman Mosque

EA2605183293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has announced that the security forces have found many party and political documents, [Democratic] Alliance documents, antigovernment plans and executive programs, military documents, and weapons at the Imam al-Mahdi mosque and dome in Omdurman.

He announced this today during his regular meeting with media leaders. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that political activity was being directed from that venue as investigations into the recent conspiracy against the country's security had revealed. He said all steps have been taken to restore the mosque to its religious aims. It had thus been decided that it should become a mosque for all Muslims and Sudanese citizens and be used solely for religious purposes. It will be called the House of the Imam al-Mahdi for Students of the Blessed Koran (?of) the University of the Blessed Koran and Islamic Sciences. He stressed that this mosque is the (?heritage) of the entire Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

Government, Akol-Led Group Suspend Nairobi Talks

EA2605203993 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The government delegation led by Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al- Tahir and that of the Unified People's Movement, led by Dr. Lam Akol, issued a joint communique at the end of the peace negotiations held in Nairobi. The two sides decided to suspend the negotiations pending further consultations.

The communique issued on the negotiations said they had covered the root causes of the conflict in Sudan while aspiring keenly towards finding a final peaceful solution. The communique said the Nairobi peace negotiations were held as the follow-up of the first Abuja negotiations in July last year. They centered on the political measures during the transitional period which would at the final stage lead to a permanent peaceful solution. They dealt with the distribution of power and resources, security measures, human rights, development, reconstruction, and the referendum to be held at the end of the transitional period.

The communique called for the transitional measures to be framed within the concept on both sides of a single united Sudan under a federal system of government with some formal differences applying to the south. The communique said that during the 15 days of negotiation, the two sides made palpable progress in most of the matters discussed regarding the distribution of power, the vesting of powers respectively between the south and the federal government, the distribution of economic resources, the participation of the south in constitutional and political institutions at national level, guarantees for human rights, and the referendum in the south.

On the issue of the shari'ah, the two sides agreed on a formula under which there would be laws applying to all in general, based on joint basic principles [word indistinct]. They would be applied at national level, while the states would have the right to introduce legislation supplementary to the federal laws on particular matters.

The states would exercise this authority in addition to the authority they would exercise over the (?other) matters within their competency. This would also include developing customary laws. The two sides did not agree on the length of the transitional period to precede the referendum. Nor was there agreement on whether the south was one entity or more. Concerning security, there were differences requiring further discussion, in spite of the fact that there was agreement on most of the points pertaining to the issue.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, the leader of the government delegation, said at a press conference he convened in Nairobi that the negotiations had made progress on most of the points discussed. Dr. Lam Akol, leader of the delegation of the United Factions [as heard], said that the north can implement the Islamic shari'ah laws provided that the south was exempted from them.

Tunisia

Court Sentences Members of Banned Islamic Movement

LD2605165293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] A criminal court in Tunisia yesterday passed various sentences on 62 elements belonging to the banned Islamic Ennahda Movement.

The ASSABAH newspaper, published in Tunisia, mentioned that seven-year prison terms were imposed on 48 accused, and 11-year sentences were imposed on the rest, who are on the run.

The newspaper pointed out that those sentenced were accused of forming a gang for launching attacks against persons and property.

Kuwait

Information Minister Welcomes King Husayn Remarks

LD2705101293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 May, (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today, Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah expressed his hope that the recent statements by the Jordanian king were true, and that the Jordanian king, government, and people will return to reason and rationality and recognize Kuwaiti right and legitimacy.

Shaykh Nasir said in a statement to AL-ANBA' that Kuwait has on numerous occasions warned of King Husayn's support and alliance with the Iraqi regime and its president in invading Kuwait, that the Jordanian people and government will sooner or later pay the price, and that they will recognize in the future the magnitude of the error they have committed by not siding with the obvious Kuwaiti right and justice. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that immediately after the 'Id al-Adha holiday he will head for Gulf Cooperation Council countries in response to invitations from their information ministers.

Saudi Arabia

King's Message to Afghan Leaders on New Government

LD2705033193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, sent a message to His Excellency President Borhannodin Rabbani of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; His Excellency Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; His Excellency Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi; His Excellency Abdul Rab Rasul Sayaf; His Excellency Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi; His Excellency Pir Sayed Ahmed Gaylani; His Excellency Yunus Khales; His Excellency Ayatollah Fazel; and His Exellency Asef Mohsen on the occasion of their agreement to form a new Afghan Government. The following is the text of the message:

On the occasion of reaching an agreement to form a new Afghan Government, on the basis of the peace agreement signed by the brotherly leaders of the Afghan jihad, in honorable Mecca in the blessed month of Ramadan 1413, it gives us great pleasure to express to you our congratulations and extreme happiness.

The truth and significance of such an achievement represent a practical example of and a sure desire for fraternal cooperation among the leaders of the jihad and for giving priority to the best interests of the fraternal people in response to God's orders. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the outcome and objectives of this agreement are a triumph for the Muslim people of Afghanistan in its jihad and great sacrifices in the service of its faith and history. It is also a triumph for our Islamic nation, which considers your fraternal country one of its outposts and fortresses. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Servant of the two holy places, Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia.

Defense Minister Receives Iraqi Opposition Leaders

LD2705022693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2325 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and inspector general, received at his office in Jeddah this evening members of the leadership of the Unified Iraqi National Congress. These were Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum, Major General Hasan al-Naqib, Mas'ud al-Barazani, and members of the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Prince Turki al-Faysal.

SAIRI Leader Hails Kingdom's Support

LD2705130893 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Mecca, May 27, SPA—Mohammad al-Baqir, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has commended the leading role of the kingdom, under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to support the Iraqi people in the aftermath of the Kuwait liberation war. The Iraqi opposition leader, in a statement, also praised the Saudi great efforts to secure the comfort and stability of the Iraqi refugees being hosted by the kingdom. He termed the Iraqi refugees camps set up at Rafha area as integrated housing compounds and the one of the most ideal camps set up for refugees in the world.

He also expressed sorrow over the recent regrettable events that took place in the refugees camps in Rafha and said the matter might be plotted by some hostile circles who do not like to see close ties between the refugees and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

United Arab Emirates

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kazakhstan

JN2605180893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 May (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Kazakhstan have decided

to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, a joint statement issued in Abu Dhabi and Almaty said today.

The Emirates news agency reported that the decision stems from a joint desire to strengthen friendly relations and promote cooperation between the two countries.

Yemen

American Oil Workers Reportedly Kidnapped

NC2605163693 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 26 (AFP)—Yemeni tribesmen have abducted two American engineers with a U.S. oil company as well as their Yemeni driver, laborers and political sources said Wednesday [26 May].

The unnamed Hunt Oil Company engineers were kidnapped on Tuesday by a tribe which has had four members sentenced to death over the murder of a police officer on May 5, the sources said.

The kidnapping occurred a day after the four saw their appeal rejected in a court in Sanaa.

The engineers worked in the Ma'rib region, about 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of the capital here, the laborers in the region said.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report from the Hunt Oil Company or U.S. embassy.

In the last few months there have been several kidnappings of foreign oil company workers as well as the thefts of cars owned by these firms.

Last July, four Americans and two Yemenis working for Hunt were kidnapped for seven hours before the Yemeni army freed them.

Western Tourists Also Seized

NC2705111893 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 27 (AFP)—Tribesmen have taken hostage three Western tourists along with two U.S. oil engineers and their Yemeni driver in the eastern region of Ma'rib, local workers said Thursday [27 May].

They did not specify the nationality of the tourists seized on Tuesday in Ma'rib, 250 kilometres (150 miles) east of the capital.

Security forces have pinned down the kidnappers and negotiations are underway to free the six hostages, the workers in the region said.

The kidnappings, according to informed sources in Sanaa, were aimed at securing the release of four members of the same tribe who were sentenced to death for the murder of a police officer on May 5.

Workers had earlier reported that two engineers for the Hunt Oil Company and their driver were taken hostage, a day after a Sanaa court rejected an appeal from the four tribesmen facing the death penalty.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report from Hunt or from western embassies.

Yemen has seen a spate of kidnappings of foreign oil company workers. In July, four Americans and two Yemenis working for Hunt were kidnapped for seven hours before the army freed them.

'Iranian Act of Aggression' Protested to UN

JN2605162793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] United Nations, 26 May (INA)—Iraq has declared that it reserves the full right to defend itself with whatever means the Iraqi Government deems appropriate to uphold its rights and legitimate interests.

Iraq communicated a vigorous protest to the UN Security Council president over a fresh Iranian act of aggression that constitutes a gross violation of its sovereignty and blatant Iranian interference in its internal affairs.

This came in an official letter sent by Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN delegate, the night before last to Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov, Security Council president for this month.

Iraq asked that the Security Council move to keep Iran from repeating further acts of aggression that run counter to the rules of international law and the UN Charter.

The letter said that U.S., British, and French military measures in two no-fly zones have helped Iran carry out this aggression and limited Iraq's ability to guard against repeated Iranian acts of aggression.

The protest note added that the United States, Britain, and France must be held just as responsible as the Iranian regime. [passage indistinct]

This latest aggression constitutes a clear violation of the UN Charter and the Security Council's failure to deter Iran in itself is an abdication of its responsibility.

Iraq urged a revision of [words indistinct] in Baghdad and Tehran, after Iran went too far in its armed aggression on Iraq. It called for a mechanism to be put in place to monitor compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council cease-fire Resolution 598 and the placement of the buffer zone between Iraq and Iran.

Papers Warn Iran Against Further Aggression

JN2605130493 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, May 26, INA—The Iraqi dailies today sternly warned the Iranian regime against pursuing its anti-Iraq aggressive approach and policy.

Dailies editorials and articles were unanimous that the coward crime perpetrated yesterday by the Iranian regime expressed the degree of hatred and rancour harboured against Iraq and its people. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said that the Tehran rulers had exploited in their aggression that took place on Tuesday [25 May], presence of the U.S. troops in the region to threaten Iraq's national security.

The paper elaborated that those rulers should perceive that encroaching upon Iraq is a stupid act and it would have fatal consequences, and this aggression is entirely consistent with their approach since their capture of power in 1979.

Iran's religious slogans had failed during Umm al-Ma'rik [Mother of Battles] battle, since the events substantiated that the Tehran rulers had sided with the "big devil" against Iraq, and turned themselves into a docile direct instrument at hands of the U.S. and its allies to implement the imperialist design.

Iran had embroiled in the Western design to strike at Iraq and destroy its infrastructure, where it had directly involved in the wave of terror and riots that took place following the end of the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

The paper affirmed that Iran could not dare to dispatch its warplanes to bomb Iraqi areas unless the presence of an American air cover which unmasks other dimensions connected with the American design and Washington's keenness on encouraging the enemies of Iraq to attack it. [sentence as published]

Iran is now trying to invent external crises to justify the use of harsh methods to suppress the wide-scale opposition and scale down the popular turmoil against the regime and its aggressive policies, the paper said.

It stressed that stooges and agents would never intimidate Iraq and it is capable of dictating lessons to them in convenient time.

The paper said that the Tehran rulers are still insisted on playing with the edged tools and collaborating with the dubious Western circles.

It described Iran's bombastic slogans on the good neighbourliness and anti-imperialism and Zionism as false and fabricated propaganda to mislead the Iranian peoples.

Assert Country's Right To Respond

JN2705093793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has warned the Tehran rulers against continuing their aggression against Iraq, saying the game of playing with fire has become too serious to be ignored.

In an article today, the Defense Ministry's mouthpiece asserts: Fire will burn everyone who tries to start it.

The paper further asserts Iraq's legitimate right to respond to the aggression. Its says: The delay in that response does not mean a relinquishment of the right, since rancor and aggression have emerged once again. There is plenty of patience, and deception does not live long. They will only reap bitterness.

AL-QADISIYAH says Tehran's aggression coincided with the Western-Zionist onslaught against Iraq, as if that regime wanted to declare in public that it stands in the trench of Iraq's enemies.

The paper notes the suffering of the peoples of Iran and the economic problems facing the regime. The paper says: In political terms, the new aggression means only an attempt to tackle failure with failure.

The paper links Tehran's new aggression to Velayati's tour of the Gulf emirates and says that regime is trying to dance on two ropes; whenever it wishes to get close to the al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud families, it thinks its only way to do so is through aggression against Iraq.

Meanwhile, AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says Tehran's insistence on showing hostility to Iraq reflects a bankruptcy and adherence to the course of arrogance and aggression.

In an editorial today, the paper says the Iranian regime is still ignoring the lessons which the valiant soldiers of Iraq taught it in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah.

The paper adds: If the Iranian regime has a bad memory and does not recall its bitter harvest during the years of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, we remind it—in the hope that it will benefit from that lesson—that the aircraft that staged the latest aggressive raid were a dead corps throughout al-Qadisiyah battle.

The paper asserts that the regime in Tehran this time should, more than ever before, show respect for international laws, particularly Security Council Resolution 598, which it has accepted.

The paper adds: Despite the fact that it reminds the Iranian regime to respect international resolutions and laws, Iraq is not conceding its right to respond at the time it deems fit.

The paper urges Tehran rulers to follow the course of peaceful coexistence between the two neighborly Muslim peoples and not to fool themselves with the filthy gains the Zionist and imperialist quarters are promising them at Iraq's expense.

The paper asks the Tehran rulers to learn another lesson from Iraq's patience: that any aggressive course hatched, or being hatched, by the Mosad and Western quarters will only end in failure.

Speaker Calls UN Border 'Biggest Mistake Ever'

NC2605150493 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 26 (AFP)—Iraq on Wednesday [26 May] charged the U.N. demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border will keep the "embers burning forever" in the Gulf powder keg.

In Iraq's first reaction, Parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih told AFP that the United Nations made its "biggest mistake ever" when it redrew the border and gave Iraqi-held territory to Kuwait.

A U.N. commission delineating sea and land borders concluded its work on May 20 by giving both countries access to the sea. But it pushed the land border 600 meters (yards) into Iraq in line with Gulf war ceasefire agreements.

Iraq boycotted the commission's work and Salih complained that the United Nations had drawn a boundary between U.N. member states without considering the views of both sides.

Borders cannot be imposed, and must instead be negotiated by the concerned parties, Salih added.

"The problem (of Kuwait) will continue to be a problem," undermining the strategic stability in the Gulf, Salih said.

He charged that the U.N. Security Council had violated the U.N. charter. It is the United Nations duty "to solve problems rather than create them," Salih said.

"Even those who chose this solution (a new border) know that it will not lead to stability in the region because it will keep the embers burning forever."

Iraq occupied Kuwait from August 1990, claiming the Gulf state as its 19th province, until it was driven out by a U.S.-led coalition in February 1991.

Salih, who is also member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, said the Iraqis "will never forget what the Kuwaiti leaders did to them."

"People never forget those who have hurt them," he said.

The border demarcation was the first ever undertaken by the United Nations.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Economy

JN2605171293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God save him, has chaired a special meeting of the Council of Ministers. During the meeting, the participants discussed a report by the special ministerial committee under Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic, on the progress of the economy and production and the measures that have been taken to bolster the sound results that have been achieved.

The leader president emphasized that the nationalistic factor has an important and basic role in this march, be it in the reconstruction drive, the new projects, or the maintenance of a good level of production and services under the circumstances of the unjust blockade.

His excellency affirmed the importance of continuing support for those who excelled in the Mother of Battles and those with outstanding performance so as to highlight their role as leading models that motivate and support the march.

At the beginning of the meeting, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, on behalf of the cabinet ministers and on his own behalf, expressed happiness that the Council was honored with his excellency's patronage. He also expressed the ministers' pride in meeting with their great leader. He prayed that God will grant the leader president continued health and further strength against his enemies—the enemies of the nation—and that God will grant us success in serving Iraq.

The prime minister said that the cabinet ministers are full of resolve and zeal to implement his excellency's directives. Moreover, he stressed, in every meeting they become more youthful and energetic to serve this great march and to foil the plans and conspiracies of the colonialists, rancorous ones, and their lowly agents.

Meeting Shows Saddam's Concern

JN2705155593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1340 GMT 27 May 93

["Editorial" by Muhammad Falhi carried within the "Radio Newspaper" program]

[Text] Gentlemen: Every day, the U.S. Administration and its NATO and Zionist allies attempt to further harm our militant Iraqi people and to continue the unjust blockade imposed on them. This is despite the fall of the pretexts used by the aggressors to justify their continuous siege and aggression against our lofty Iraq.

Each time the aggressors try to carry out a new part of their wicked plot against our people, our historic leadership takes the appropriate measures to mitigate the suffering of the citizens and to put an end to some mistaken practices by the low-minded people, who exploited the blockade for profiteering, cheating people, and raising prices.

The cabinet held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of leader President Saddam Husayn to discuss the progress of economy and production and the measures that have been taken to enhance economy. This meeting came to underscore the great leader's concern for tackling the economic situation and breaking the unjust blockade that has been imposed on our people for approximately three years.

Leader Saddam Husayn's word has always guaranteed Iraq's future and pride. Had it not been for his excellency's great leadership and planning, the achievements and victories, which are the Iraqis' object of pride, would not have been attained. Had it not been for the leader's determination, our people would not have been able to confront, with their epic-like steadfastness, all the forces of evil and tyranny led by the U.S. Administration in its criminal 30-state aggression.

No matter how many plots and wicked schemes are concocted against our steadfast Iraq, the determination of our leadership and people will triumph, God willing, and the aggressors will reap only disappointment and disgrace.

National Assembly Calls For Confidence in Dinar

JN2605161393 Baghdad INA in English 1355 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 26, INA—The National Assembly (Parliament) on Monday [24 May] held a special session chaired by Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to tackle the present economic situation and the unjustifiable rises in prices of foodstuff and consumer goods.

The Assembly discussed two reports presented by the Assembly's Trade and Agriculture and Finance and Planning committees. A number of MP's were engaged in long discussions on the sufferings of the people, especially those with limited income as a result of price hikes.

The MP's attributed the rises in prices to a set of factors, including the rise in the marginal profits of traders and increase on commissions and the number of the middlemen, the high cost of imported commodities due to the sharp drop in the value of the Iraqi dinar, and inflation.

After the discussion, the Assembly approved a set of recommendations that will be presented to the Presidency Office for final ratification. The MP's recommended cuting down on unnecessary government expenditure under the present situation and reducing the flow of printed banknotes as would help refinance the budget and combat high rates of inflation.

The MP's, moreover, called for tightening custom measures and control to help prevent the smuggling of goods out of the country and cutting down on red tape to save time, efforts and money.

They also called for direct supervision and intervention by the government to organize the economic sector and supervise basic services which have vital impacts on people's everyday life.

Moreover, the Assembly called for adopting measures that will help regain the confidence of traders and businessmen of neighbouring countries in the Iraqi dinar and encourage them to conclude commercial deals with Iraq.

The MP's also urged the government to back and develop the private sector to help boost its contributions to the economy.

The MP's recommended minimizing the timetable of long-term debts offered by the state and ensuring means to cover companies and installations of the socialist (public) sector with the profits distribution law.

They also recommended converting centrally-financed productive installtions into self-financed ones.

The Assembly, moreover, approved a proposal for licencing the Estate Bank to receive people's assets in return for reasonable interest rates and relending them to people at special commercial interest, and allowing the private sector to establish insurance companies.

In a bid to alleviate the effects of the rises in prices on people, the Assembly called for reconsidering the civil servants children allowances, salaries of the families covered with the social security law and adjusting pensions.

The Assembly's Trade and Agriculture Affairs Committee had been busy over the past few weeks preparing a thorough study and meeting with experts and specialists from Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation and Trade in a bid to analyse and diagnose factors which have prominent roles in the trade and agricultural sectors.

The committee, moreover, prepared questions and inquiries on the role of the Ministries of Trade and Agriculture and Irrigation that will be answered by officials of the said ministries.

Al-Najaf Allocated 42 Million Dinars for Projects

JN2605161193 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 26, INA—A sum of ID [Iraqi dinar] 42,150.000 has been allocated recently to complete a number of service projects in al-Najaf Province. A local daily reported on Monday.

Al-Najaf Mayor Karim Hasan Rida said an ambitious plan has been adopted to improve water and sewage networks, pave streets and squares, reconstruct government buildings and schools, and improve public services rendered to people of the province.

Assassinations Linked to Kurdish Differences

JN2605160493 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 24 May 93 pp 1, 6

["Exclusive" report]

[Excerpt] Differences have escalated and assassinations have continued between the groups of both Jalal [Talabani] and Mas'ud [Barzani]. It has been proved that the assassination of 'Aziz Khushnaw, director of the al-Sulaymaniyah cigarette factory, was ordered by Jalal Talabani personally because 'Aziz Khushnaw ridiculed Jalal's claim that he personally was responsible for reopening the al-Sulaymaniyah cigarette factory. Khushnaw earlier said that the factory's officials were responsible for reopening the factory and that Jalal had no role in it. This statement angered Jalal, who ordered the killing of Khushnaw, and one week later, elements of Jalal's group assassinated him. Last week, another body was found near a sugar factory in al-Sulaymaniyah, and it is believed that this person was killed to avenge Khushnaw's murder. [passage omitted]

Kurdish 'Foreign Minister' Urges End of Embargo

AU2705082393 Vienna NEWS in German 27 May 93 p 58

[Interview with "Kurdistan's Foreign Minister" Dishad Barzani by Gottfried Strasser; place and date not given: "The Only Democracy in the Gulf"]

[Text] [Strasser] Have the tensions between the various Kurdish parties been resolved since last year's elections?

[Barzani] In Iraqi Kurdistan everyone is cooperating closely. We are also trying to form a joint front line with the Iranian Kurds, and also with the Turkish Government, regardless of whether or not the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] permits that. The PKK is pretending to the be the leading political organization in Kurdistan—this is not democratic.

[Strasser] What will now happen to the Shiite Kurds who have fled to Iran? Is the Kurdish government advocating their return?

[Barzani] Yes, of course. There are 300,000 refugees in Iran. However, now we do not have any way of providing them with supplies. As soon as Saddam is no longer there, however, this will be a focal issue of our work.

[Strasser] How great are the opposition's chances of removing Saddam before he dies?

[Barzani] We hope it will happen. The Shiite and Kurdish opposition movements are now united.

[Strasser] But things will probably not work without political pressure from the West.

[Barzani] U.S. President Bill Clinton has promised us support. The most important thing would be military support; this means that the 36th parallel must be preserved as a protection zone. The allies will delay this until Saddam is gone.

[Strasser] Do you hope for an expansion of the protection zone?

[Barzani] At the moment this is not realistic. However, all the countries in this region must find a solution. Kurdistan is the first country in the Middle East—apart from Israel—with a democratically elected government and with political freedom.

[Strasser] Could religious fundamentalism develop in Kurdistan?

[Barzani] There are Islamic parties supported by Saudi Arabia and Iran. They pay up to 2,000 dinars per month to every follower, 10 times more than a teacher earns.

[Strasser] Is there a danger the that people will become radical if the economic situation does not improve soon?

[Barzani] At the moment freedom and democracy are more important for the people. This year things are

better than last year. One must not forget that, before the war, 60 percent of Iraqi fruit and 80 percent of wheat came from Kurdistan.

[Strasser] Do you believe that there is a readiness to loosen the embargo?

[Barzani] We are working on that. The United States has promised us support, but first this must be decided by the United Nations. Iraq is circumventing the embargo. In the south over 250 trucks cross the Iraqi-Iranian border every day. Iraq is secretly selling oil and getting food for it.

280 Palestinian Prisoners To Be Released

TA2605191293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Some 280 Palestinian prisoners and detainees will be released from prisons and lock-up facilities on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. The first will be sent home tomorrow. The decision was made this week at a meeting of the prime minister, the police minister, the deputy chief of staff, the head of the Shin Bet, and the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

Our correspondents Moshe Nussbaum and Karmela Menashe report that the criteria were the release of minors, women, elderly, and sick people. Orders were given to take special care that none of those released should have taken part in terrorist activities resulting in fatalities.

Another decision at the meeting was to allow Arabs from the Gaza Strip to attend prayers on Temple Mount in Jerusalem as of this coming Friday.

Release Begins

TA2705103393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Qezi'ot and Megiddo prisons have begun to free some 145 of the 280 security prisoners who will be released for the Muslim 'Id al-Adha festival. East Jerusalem sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that according to the lists submitted to the Civil Administration and leaders in the territories, 297 people will be released as part of the gesture.

Beilin: No Settlement Without U.S. Involvement

TA2705055293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 May 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] The current situation in the peace process looks very much like what happened in previous rounds: Things are stalled. There is an Israeli gesture. The Americans exert a little pressure. Then there are consultations. It looks like a vicious circle, does it not?

[Beilin] I think that U.S. involvement is the main issue. Only a few days ago, a very senior U.S. Administration official made a statement about reducing American involvement overseas. In its wake, clarifications were issued by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who made it clear that the Americans do not plan to lower their profile. There is no doubt, however, that the issue is up in the air. If there is an American decision to cut involvement overseas, the first to suffer will be the Middle East conflict, because, to my regret, it will not be resolved without some sort of U.S. involvement.

[Qital] The fact that we are not interested is clear. The question is whether the Palestinians are pushing for it. Does the thought that the Americans will not be involved frighten them?

[Beilin] Are you saying it is clear that we are not interested in American involvement?

[Qital] No, I said the opposite: that it is clear that we are interested in American involvement. The question is what the Palestinians think.

[Beilin] Look, it is not that clear. For years, we traditionally viewed any whiff of U.S. involvement as anticipated pressure. In my view, it is very difficult to change that feeling, although it is definitely without any basis now. On the other hand, the Palestinians, who in the past were interested in American involvement, did not turn up at the joint meeting planned by the Americans two weeks ago. It is therefore not really clear what the positions of the various sides are, but if you ask me whether the current path of holding further rounds is the right one, my answer would be affirmative. If you ask me if we can reach a breakthrough that way, however, my answer would be negative.

[Qital] What do the Palestinians really want now? Is it not obvious that we are discussing autonomy and that Israel is moving in that direction?

[Beilin] From the Palestinian viewpoint there are two problems. One has nothing to do with us, and it is this one that, in my view, hampered the last round of talks: Saudi financial aid, which the Americans promised them but which did not materialize. On the other hand, the other issue has to do with us, and that is their demand for a clearer link between the interim and permanent arrangements. They would very much like for everything not to remain unsettled after five years, whereas for us it is very important that the interim arrangement not be part of the permanent arrangement, but stand on its own. I would say this has been the toughest bone of contention between the two sides for several rounds.

[Qital] There have been several timetables in the past. When the present government took over, the prime minister talked about six to ninth months before an agreement is reached. Later, the date was moved to the end of this year. Do you think there is any chance of reaching some sort of arrangement within six months to a year?

[Beilin] I think so. The existing differences between the sides do not have to lead either to the breakup of the negotiations or to extending them over many years. The question of whether we can reach an arrangement within months also depends on the other side, and we, of course, cannot make a commitment for the other side. The remarks made in the past about six or nine months were aimed at stressing the fact that this is a path that can be concluded within a matter of months. I think it is still true to say that if we can free ourselves from the framework in which we have become stuck, if we can

make use of the Americans, who must get to know the differences between the sides better and bridge them, then in such a hypothetical case we could talk about reaching an agreement within months and even weeks. To my regret, I cannot tell you that I believe that we can resolve it within weeks.

Palestinian Delegation-PLO Link To Be Recognized

TA2705090593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 May 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that Israel will issue declarations that establish a linkage between the Palestinian delegation and the PLO in Tunis. This will come as part of additional measures to bolster the standing of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. [passage omitted]

HADASH Convention Reaffirms Support for Rabin

TA2605135793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Concluding its party convention in Nazareth today and despite the sharp criticism leveled at the government's policy and its actions in the territories, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] pledged to support the Rabin government and to remain part of the bloc, assuring it a majority in the Knesset as long as the peace process continues.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that some participants demanded that HADASH's support for the Rabin government be qualified and that the party express a lack of confidence in it due to its actions such as the closure, the deportations, and its attitude toward the inhabitants of the territories. The HADASH convention protested what it termed the intention to curtail the actions of Arab Knesset members [MK] and to regard them as second- class MK's.

HADASH called on the peace forces to close ranks against what it termed the racism and running amok of the right wing, which is trying to secure a nondemocratic decision in the streets. Our correspondent notes that through this step the HADASH convention sought to protest the Likud's call to bar Arab citizens from participating in a referendum about territorial concessions.

Former Prime Minister Shamir Interviewed

PM2605163393 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 May 93 p 5

[Interview with former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Paris by Claude Lorieux; date not given]

[Text] Three days after the resignation of Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, president of the Palestine National Council (parliament), who disagreed with the way the peace process with Israel is being pursued, the Palestinians yesterday displayed their ill humor again. The Palestinian delegation announced that it would boycott the activity of the working group on the environment, one of the subjects of multilateral negotiations. The four Arab sides (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians) were to have met 30 May and 5 June to prepare the next session of bilateral meetings.

[Lorieux] Shortly after the Labor Party's victory in June you stated, according to the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV: "If I had been reelected, I would have continued negotiations on Palestinian autonomy for 10 years, and in that time half a million Israelis would have settled on the West Bank."

[Shamir] That is a lie. I never said that.

[Lorieux] What did you say?

[Shamir] I have always said that the negotiations were a long-term process. That can be noted today. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he needed nine months to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. Eleven months have elapsed, and nothing has happened. Rabin was wrong to set a deadline. (...) The Arabs took him at his word. One does not make jokes like that during negotiation. And I have been accused of opposing progress.

[Lorieux] Nonetheless, according to MA'ARIV you were resolved to make the peace negotiations drag on....

[Shamir] That is untrue. I said nothing that could have been interpreted in that way. On the contrary, I was at the origin of the Madrid process, which serves as a framework for the current negotiations. That formula was to make it possible to obtain results, above all by taking the Camp David agreements (of 1978) as a basis. Two stages are envisaged. First we negotiate the terms for autonomy then, a few years later, a permanent solution. But the Palestinians do not respect this program. They would like to obtain our agreement straight away to create a Palestinian state.

'New Settlements? Why Not?'

[Lorieux] In Tunis, PLO officials say they accept the two stages. What they want is to be sure the process will not stop at the autonomy stage.

[Shamir] That is contrary to Camp David. We have accepted Palestinian autonomy. After that all options are open. Now, the Palestinians would like to have an assurance right now that the definitive solution will be their solution.

[Lorieux] Does current negotiation not go further than Camp David?

[Shamir] I do not think one can go further than the Camp David agreements. Israel should not now make any commitment for the future.

[Lorieux] You agree that the negotiation will last. Could you not take advantage to establish new "settlements" on the West Bank and in Gaza?

[Shamir] Why not? There is nothing in the Camp David accords limiting Israel's right to create "settlements." What are the Palestinian Arabs afraid of? They are very much in the majority. And negotiation will continue for five years at most.

[Lorieux] Has Likud changed since you left?

[Shamir] It has changed its style. It has not changed as regards what is essential. What is essential is to protect all of Israel's borders, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan. That is the minimum for survival. Israel is a tiny state. What would be left of it if very large regions like the Golan Heights, Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were to be lopped off?

[Lorieux] The Gaza Strip, but there is talk of an imminent agreement on the Gaza Strip....

[Shamir] I do not see the difference. The Gaza Strip is like Judaea and Samaria. The only thing is that there are more difficulties. The population's living standard must be improved. The refugee camps should be dismantled.

[Lorieux] Where would the refugees be sent?

[Shamir] They would remain where they are, but they must be given decent housing with aid from the rich Arab countries and the West. It is a human duty.

[Lorieux] You had the "bad luck" to end up with a U.S. president like George Bush. One has the impression that Bill Clinton is better disposed toward Israel.

[Shamir] I hope so. We must wait and see. The Clinton administration is only starting out. I had the best of working relations with the Reagan administration. We concluded agreements on strategic, economic, and political cooperation.

[Lorieux] Yes, but since the collapse of the USSR, Israel no longer has the same strategic importance for the United States.

[Shamir] I do not think so. America still has an interest in stability in the Near East. Israel is an important pillar of that stability. Israel will always have a pro-Western system and will cooperate with the United States.

[Lorieux] Is that not Israel's basic problem: a country linked to the United States and Europe, but situated in the Near East? Will Israel remain a state apart in the Near East?

[Shamir] In our country, we would be very willing to become an integral part of the Near East. We live there. We would like to have the best of cooperative relations with the Arab countries. Alas, the Arabs boycott us politically and economically. We therefore have to have cooperation with Europe and the United States.

[Lorieux] In Damascus, it is said that peace with the Israelis is nothing more nor less than the application of UN Resolution 242. In Tunis, PLO officials say: "We want genuine relations with Israel."

[Shamir] That is because they want to implement at least part of their ideal. The ambitions of a few Palestinians are of no account for Syria. To obtain the start of Palestinian independence, the Palestinians are therefore readier to make compromises. But their compromises are not enough.

[Lorieux] And fundamentalism?

[Shamir] That is the big obstacle, not only for Israel, but for the entire Arab and Muslim world. It will destroy any prospect of coexistence between the Muslim world and Western civilization.

[Lorieux] Israel also has a fundamentalism problem within some Jewish communities.

[Shamir] That is not the same thing. Muslim fundamentalists have the duty to conquer the entire world. In our country, it is a question of movements that are spiritual but neither political nor military.

[Lorieux] Could you persuade a Palestinian of that when the Israelis build "settlements" on a particular West Bank site because it was mentioned in the Bible?

[Shamir] I have told you. Our country is so small. One cannot speak of an empire. It is the minimum. We still have as our ideal the concentration of the entire Jewish people in this country. So where will we put them? But we do not want to conquer foreign countries.

[Lorieux] The peace negotiation is being polarized around fear. Your compatriots who are afraid of the "war of the knives" are on one side. On the other side are the Palestinians who for nearly two months have been subjected to a territorial blockade and have never had so many children shot dead!

[Shamir] It is a temporary phenomenon. The Palestinian Arabs will realize that terrorism and violence lead nowhere. On the contrary, negotiation could allow us to arrived at a real coexistence. The men and women of this region should be able to live in peace.

Prime Minister, PLO Delegation Review 9th Round

JN2605173793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office at noon today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, foreign minister; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and the ambassador of Palestine in Amman.

The two sides reviewed the results of the ninth round of peace talks and the talks Qaddumi held in Beirut and Damascus within the framework of the continuous coordination among the Arab parties to the peace negotiations prior to the upcoming meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace process.

During the meeting, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides stressed the importance of Arab solidarity and the determination to continue the peace process in accordance with the Madrid formula and based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace.

The talks also touched on the arbitrary measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities against the people in the occupied Arab territory and the problem of the deportees still stranded in Marj al-Zuhur. The two sides said this requires the cosponsors of the peace process to take the necessary steps to remove obstacles to the peace process so that justice, stability, and peace will prevail in the Middle East.

Qaddumi Comments

JN2605192293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir received in his office at noon today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. Our political correspondent has more details in the following report:

The two sides reviewed the results of the ninth round of bilateral talks and the discussions Qaddumi held in Beirut and Damascus within the framework of the continued coordination among the Arab parties to the peace talks in preparation for the upcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace talks. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] As a joint delegation, we have always assessed each round of talks. We know that, during the talks, sometimes a step forward is achieved while other times no progress is made. However, a unified Arab stand is needed. This is why we held consultations with our brothers in Syria and in Lebanon. We also came to our kinfolk here to discuss with them these results to convene the next meeting [of Arab foreign ministers] in Amman to find a common ground and concept regarding the settlement in general.

[Correspondent] Has a date been set for the Amman meeting?

[Qaddumi] Yes, God willing, it will be after the 'Id holiday [31 May-4 June] and the date for the Amman meeting will be agreed on by the Arab foreign ministers. [end recording]

Asked about his expectations regarding the contacts a Palestinian delegation, led by Faysal al-Husayni, will hold with U.S. officials in the near future, Qaddumi stressed that these contacts should deal with—in addition to the draft declaration of principles—the overall issues concerning the peace process. The contacts, he added, should also underscore the principles of this process.

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] We would rather have direct dialogue with the United States. However, we prefer to consult with our Arab brothers regarding these American-Palestinian consultations which we want to be bilateral, not three-way consultations. As I said, the Palestinian leadership rejected this paper which was considered a compromise between a Palestinian and an Israeli paper because it ignores the point of reference. How can we discuss such a paper?

If the discussion deals with the process in general, and if the U.S. side wants to prove its credibility, as it pledged, we are ready for such consultations. We must be ready for this because we stand by the political process based on fair principles. [end recording]

Sources Confirm Reconciliation Plan With Saudi Arabia

JN2705071293 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 26 May 93 p 6

[From "Happening Now" page]

[Text] Informed sources have confirmed a plan for a Jordanian- Saudi reconciliation which the two parties are trying to reach quietly out of Riyadh's concern for its relations with Kuwait. The reconciliation plan may be completed before his majesty the king leaves for a visit to Washington at an official invitation from President Clinton.

Paper Urges Inter-Arab Dialogue To End 'Estrangement'

JN2705103593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 May 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "One Round in Return for Nine Rounds"]

[Text] It is a mistake for any Arab side to believe that the current Arab state of affairs could promote its interests,

or that the estrangement plaguing inter-Arab ties could produce any temporary or future benefits or protection, or, for that matter, any assurances whatsoever regarding national, regional, or tribal interests, regardless of the terms currently in circulation.

Given the preparations currently under way for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in a 10th round, and in light of this sweeping Arab support for these negotiations, the average Arab citizen feels sadness that no single inter-Arab round of talks has thus far been held, that no single meeting has thus far brought the Arabs together in a frank encounter in which there might have been exchanged blame, bickering, or even punches. Had such a meeting taken place, each and every Arab side would have expressed its views and explained the rationale behind its adopted positions. Furthermore, had such a meeting materialized, Arab leaders would have considered their national and pan-Arab responsibilities toward their countries and peoples. This is of particular importance since these responsibilities are being currently beleaguered and fired on by covetous parties, which are capitalizing on the state of estrangement and disunity plaguing the Arab countries. These parties are employing a great deal of effort, conspiracies, and doubt-casting to preclude even nominal Arab solidarity and to kill any idea of convening an inter-Arab meeting.

Given the new world order, the beginnings of which we have come to grips with, it has become quite clear that the humiliation of the homeland and the subjugation of the nation are being realized in accordance with an external scheme that has become well known to everybody. Wittingly, or unwittingly, we are the tools of this scheme.

It is true that the Gulf crisis and war the region has experienced have directly befallen Iraq and Kuwait. However, the indirect impact, in the aftermath of this crisis and war, has catastrophically affected the entire Arab homeland. This has caused in our nation a state of weakness that is without precedent, even under the old colonialist rule, with all its rancor, evils, and racist practices.

Notwithstanding all this, we have not thus far lost hope of an Arab awakening that would restore our independent Arab decisionmaking and orientation. Such an awakening should result in all Arabs agreeing that those who harbor delusions regarding the possible achievement of limited victories must pause and reconsider their positions. Besides, these people must also subscribe to an indispensable pan-Arab conviction stipulating that the dignity of the entire homeland, just as its subjugation, is indivisible. The first step in this direction would be to hold a single round of inter-Arab negotiations, which should not necessarily include kisses, handshakes, or even the opening of new chapters. However, such a round of talks remains necessary to salvage what can be salvaged. It should be impermissible for us all to engage in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with the enemy, and to endorse each and every round of negotiations before we embark on inter-Arab negotiations. The start of such negotiations should not be contingent upon the permission or endorsement of anybody. In any such endeavor, we must be inspired only by our consciences and our sense of responsibility.

Muslim Brotherhood Cells at University Broken Up

PM2705103693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 May 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Days After Arrest of Two Islamic Liberation Party Leaders, Secret Brotherhood Network Arrested in Jordanian Mu'tah University"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—Arab diplomatic sources have said that security organs in Jordan have managed over the past few days to arrest members of cells belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood movement. They were operating secretly in the military wing at Mu'tah University in al-Karak, some 150 km south of the Jordanian capital, Amman.

According to the sources, the students who proved to have been implicated in these cells have been expelled from the university in question, on the grounds that the university is military in nature. In accordance with the Jordanian parties law, it is forbidden for any party, movement, or popular organization to practice any activities in the Army, public security, or security services.

The sources pointed out that the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan sent a message a few days ago to Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, complaining about the arrest of some of its members. It did not, however, list any names or give any background.

At another level, semiofficial sources have confirmed that the arrest of two senior Islamic Liberation Party leaders in Jordan some 10 days ago was not attributable to any political or organizational activities. They did not state the real reasons for this arrest, but some circles say that this party, which does not recognize the Constitution, could have been implicated in some banned activities like possessing arms or matters related to violent practices.

Israel's Eagerness for 10th Round 'Deceptive'

JN2605140093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel is showing great eagerness to see the 10th round of peace talks convene in Washington. Prior to the conclusion of the ninth round, which was a new disappointment, Israeli negotiators proposed resuming the negotiations on 7 June. The Arab side was not pleased with the proposal and asserted that setting a new date for the next round of talks should be preceded by Arab coordination at the level of foreign ministers, as well as assessment of the outcome of the previous round. In light of this assessment and the contacts with the sponsors of the peace process, an appropriate decision will be made on returning to the negotiating table.

Arab contacts to coordinate stands are continuing ahead of a meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace process planned in Amman shortly, amid disappointment produced by the previous round. Israeli officials and media meanwhile have not stopped talking about Israel's constant readiness to resume the talks as soon as possible. By saying this, they are showing deceptive concern about the peace process.

We still remember how Israel took advantage of Arab indecisiveness about the convening of the ninth round by showing apparent eagerness to convene the session quickly. However, the ninth round was held without achieving any results and without any change in the intransigent, unserious Israeli position. Israel is again eager to return to the negotiations. This is accompanied by repeated announcements by Israeli officials that Israel will not change any of its positions, which have precluded progress in the previous rounds. Add to this the Israeli media campaign against the Arab side for asking Washington to play the role of a full partner and honest broker and to put pressure on the Israeli side to comply with the bases of the peace process and do something serious to push this process forward.

If Israel's position, which caused disappointment in the previous rounds, is still the same and if Tel Aviv still refuses to see Washington's full partner role crystallize to make the party that so far refuses to comply with the bases of the peace process do so, then how can we explain this old-new Israeli eagerness to hold a new round?

The reason for the the lack of progress in nine rounds is very clear to the Arabs, the sponsors of the conference, and the world; that is, Israel's lack of sincerity, seriousness, and honest political will to advance on the road of just, comprehensive peace through the negotiating process.

Despite the fact that the negotiations have been going on for a year and a half, there has been no real change in Israel's position. In fact, there is nothing that bodes such a change, judging by the current statements of senior Israeli officials. Despite all this, Israel is still eager to hold more rounds of talks. The only possible explanation for this eagerness is that Israel is content with the illusion that a certain activity is taking place; that is, it wants to give world public opinion the impression that there is movement toward establishing peace in the Middle East. Israel meanwhile uses media deception tactics to hide the truth that there has been no real, substantive activity because of its own position. It also holds the Arabs responsible for lack of progress.

A review of the nine rounds held so far would reveal that this is exactly the approach Israel has been following in dealing with the negotiations. Therefore, Israel's eagerness to reconvene the negotiations will not deceive anyone. Before setting a date for the next round, there has to be a study of the prospects for success of such a round. This is what the Arab side is currently doing through the contacts under way before a meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace process in Amman. This is what distinguishes the seriousness of the Arab position and its concern to see the negotiations succeed from Israel's unserious stand, which gives attention only to the form, rather than the substance, of the negotiations.

Arab contacts and the upcoming coordination meeting will no doubt produce an appropriate decision that contributes toward safeguarding Arab rights, keeping the peace process on the right course, and advancing it to achieve its desired objective of a just, lasting peace.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister, Burmese Home Minister Discuss Ties

BK2605151793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The home minister of Burma, Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, currently visiting Bangladesh, called on Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman in Dhaka today. During the talks they expressed satisfaction over the improvement of bilateral relations in all spheres. The two ministers also noted with satisfaction the progress made so far in repatriation of the Burmese refugees and they expressed the hope that it would be further accelerated in the future. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman and Gen. Mya Thinn also held talks on the prospects of border trade between the two countries and pledged to work for the expansion of bilateral trade.

Solidarity Council To Cooperate in Chakma Repatriation

BK2605143193 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 23 May 93 p 1

[By Torun Kumar Bhattacharjee]

[Text] The Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHT] people's solidarity council [political wing of the tribal insurgents] and the government committee on CHT have agreed to extend the cease-fire in the region until August 31. The two sides also expressed their willingness to hold the fourth round of talks by July 15.

This announcement was made at a joint news conference after a closed-door meeting between the two sides held at the Khagrachari circuit house yesterday. The news conference was addressed by the communications minister, Colonel Oli Ahmed, who is the leader of the government committee, and Jatindra Boddhi Priya Larma, alias Shantu Larma, leader of the people's solidarity council.

The communications minister said that both sides discussed the CHT's problems and consensus has been reached on many issues. He said further talks are needed to resolve certain matters. The minister added that talks were also held concerning repatriation of the Chakma refugees from India. He said the people's solidarity council has given the assurance that it will extend cooperation in repatriation of the refugees.

The communications minister said all of us want the refugees to be able to return to their homeland, coexist with dignity as citizens of an independent country, and contribute to the development of the nation.

Addressing the news conference, the leader of the people's solidarity council, Shantu Larma, said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. Regarding repatriation of the refugees, he said all of us want them to be able to return to their country and he promised all possible cooperation in this regard.

During the talks both sides accused each other of violating the cease-fire and agreed to honor the cease-fire accord. Discussions were held on various issues including land surveying, cluster villages, repatriation, and rehabilitation of the refugees. The amended five-point demands of the people's solidarity council—which include among other issues regional autonomy and withdrawal of the Bengali settlers from the CHT—also came up for discussion. It was decided that the issue of withdrawal of the Bengali settlers will be taken up during the next round of talks. The government committee emphasized that officials of the Law Ministry should be included in the next round of talks to examine the legal implications of the autonomy issue.

For the first time Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon participated in the talks with the people's solidarity council. Awami League MP Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury, who took part in the talks, said a lot of progress had been made. He added that legal implications of many of the demands raised by the people's solidarity council must be studied. Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] MP Shahjahan Chowdhury, who is also a member of the government committee, said the talks are heading toward success.

Those who participated in the talks are BNP MP's Syed Wahidul Alam and Shahjahan Chowdhury; Awami League MP's Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury and Kalpa Ranjan Chakma; Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon; and Jamaat MP Shahjahan Chowdhury. Another member of the government committee, MP Barkatullah Bulu, was not present during the talks. The members of the people's solidarity council who attended the meeting were Rupayan Dewan, Shudhashindu Khisa, Ashok Chakma, and Rakattapal Tripura.

India

Rao Takes 'Watch and See' Stance on Pakistan

BK2605162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Reacting to developments in Pakistan, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said that events are still unfolding and we have to watch and see. He was talking to newsmen in New Delhi today after returning from Almaty after a four-day visit to the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

The prime minister said that his visits to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have been successful. He said his visit has laid a firm foundation of friendship and cooperation with the governments of these republics. Mr. Narasimha Rao said India has signed five agreements with Uzbekistan including economic and trade and air links. He said he signed two more agreements with Kazakhstan. Mr. Rao said that the governments of the two countries shared India's views on secularism and pluralism. The prime minister said New Delhi's relations with these republics are not merely as holding the promises of

fruitful cooperation in trade and economic fields but also as playing a pivotal role in the stability of the entire region.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, visited the Victory Memorial at (Pansilov Park) in the Kazakh capital Almaty this morning and placed a wreath there. The memorial was built in memory of the heroes of the country who fought fascists in the Second World War. Later, Mr. Narasimha Rao and members of the Indian delegation called on the chairman of the Kazakhstan parliament. Mr. Rao also met a group of intellectuals, including members of the Indo-Kazakh Friendship Society.

Welcomes Restoration of Sharif

BK2705091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has congratulated Mr. Nawaz Sharif on his restoration as the prime minister of Pakistan by the Supreme Court. In a message, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that he welcomes the restoration, which is a notable assertion of the rule of law. He said India believes that democracy provides the most reliable basis for cooperation and friendship between our two countries. The prime minister expressed the hope that together he and Mr. Nawaz Sharif would work toward establishing harmonious and tension-free relations. The message was personally handed over to Mr. Sharif early this afternoon by the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. S.K. Lamba. Mr. Lamba was the first envoy to be received by Mr. Nawaz Sharif after his reinstatement.

Commentary Discusses Verdict

BK2705040293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 May 93

[Commentary by Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra: "The Historic Verdict of Pakistan Supreme Court"]

[Text] The room in the President's House in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, which has been witness to the sacking of three National Assemblies and an equal number of prime ministers in the past five years, has been humorously dubbed by the foreign press corps as the dissolution room. I myself have been witness to the sacking of two prime ministers—Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif—by the same president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan. If political pundits are to be believed, it will be a very long time before this famous room will see a prime minister being sent home again, thanks to the historic judgment that was delivered by a 10 to one majority by a full bench of the Supreme Court yesterday. In one stroke, one of the biggest turnarounds in Pakistan's checkered political history took place. The winners who had become the losers have once again become the winners.

The intervening 38 days' gap is probably the most bizarre that Pakistan has ever witnessed. After dismissing Mr. Nawaz Sharif, President Ishaq Khan installed a political unknown, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, as the caretaker prime minister, who in turn went on to install the largest Cabinet Pakistan has ever known. As the day-to-day hearings commenced on Mr. Nawaz Sharif's writ petition against Mr. Ishaq Khan's dissolution order filed some three weeks ago, it soon became apparent from the observations in questions of the 11-member bench that something major was afoot. To begin with, if the statement issued last evening by a spokesman of the President's House is any guide, it is apparent that Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan intends to continue in office and has no intention of handing in his resignation. The president has said that he accepts the verdict and intends to uphold the Constitution in the future to the best of his ability. The fact that the elections which had been scheduled for the 14th of July now stand automatically canceled must have come as a disappointment to several political parties and alliances. Chief among them is the leader of the opposition, Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

One section of the Pakistani society that has been jubilant over Mr. Sharif's return is, of course, the business community and the small traders—all of whom have prospered under his regime. Mr. Sharif's dismissal had, if media reports are to be believed, given a scare to foreign investors and there had been a massive flight of foreign capital from the country. His return should now inject some stability in this sphere.

There are, however, two tasks before Mr. Sharif, which will require his immediate attention. One is that the national budget is to be presented in just a fortnight's time; but before that, many expect Mr. Sharif to reestablish his legitimacy by seeking a fresh vote of confidence in the National Assembly. All eyes are now naturally turned toward the meeting of the National Assembly which is scheduled to take place this evening. The results of all the hustle and bustle should surface when the National Assembly convenes at 1730 this evening. What happens then will no doubt determine the course of events in the days ahead.

Commentary Views Rao Visits to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan

BK2705115793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 May 93

[Commentary by K.K. Sud]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has returned to India after a four-day visit to two of its Central Asian neighbors—Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. These two countries recently became independent after disintegration of the Soviet Union. The other three Central Asian countries to become free are Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

After the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the breakup of the Soviet Union, Islamic fundamentalist groups with the blessings and support of various Muslim countries like Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia tried to extend their influence among these newly independent countries who had been secular during the last many decades as part of the Soviet Union. Most of these countries have so far succeeded in maintaining their secular outlook. One exception has been Tajikistan which has a common border with Afghanistan and where guerrilla fighters from Afghanistan are threatening the territorial integrity of this state. This has sounded the danger signals among the other Central Asian countries who feel that if the Islamic fundamentalists succeed in overthrowing the government in Tajikistan, their own future will also be at stake. This threat is not confined only to this region. Even countries like Egypt, Jordan, and Algeria are now battling with Islamic fundamentalists. Many of them have taken part in the war in Afghanistan and are now damaging the economies of those Muslim countries and are trying to bring down their governments.

During the last few years, India has had bitter experience of state-sponsored terrorism from across the border in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and more recently during the bomb blast in Bombay. Keeping the totality of this picture in view, one can see the significance of Mr. Narasimha Rao's visits to these Central Asian countries. The recurring theme in the speeches of Mr. Rao and the leaders of these countries was the danger posed by fundamentalists and terrorists to their secular societies and how the integrity of their countries and their secular character could be preserved through increased cooperation among them.

Mr. Narasimha Rao began his visit with Tashkent which is regarded as the gateway of Central Asia and with which India has had age-old ties. During their talks, the Uzbekistan president, Mr. Islam Karimov, and Mr. Rao expressed their determination to fight religious fundamentalism and international terrorism and to forge closer economic ties between the two countries. Mr. Karimov said he was worried about religious fundamentalism sweeping many neighboring countries. He warned fundamentalist forces in Afghanistan against trying to destabilize the government in neighboring Tajikistan. Mr. Rao said India has some tragic experience of terrorism sponsored from across the border and the government has resolved to fight against this menace. Speaking about Central Asia, he said stability and prosperity of Uzbekistan is of crucial importance to Central Asia as a whole. Our stake in it is clear as our commitment to our relations with Central Asia, and especially Uzbekistan, is unambiguous. He said there is vast scope for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. Indian technology and expertise can work with the Uzbeks to improve their immense natural resources.

In Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan, Mr. Rao said secularism is the sheet anchor of India's unity and stability. Similarly, Kazakhstan by providing a secular constitution to itself has set an example worthy of emulation. Mr. Rao and the Kazakhstan president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, pledged to strengthen political and economic relations between the two countries. India has offered loans to both the countries to step up trade and cooperation in various fields. In the case of Kazakhstan, such cooperation will also cover research in the field of atomic energy and space. India's joint commissions with the two countries will meet in the next few months to work out detailed plans. Indian cultural centers are to be opened in both the countries. On return to India, the prime minister has described his visit as highly successful and pointed out the similarity of views between India and these two countries in promoting secularism and fighting religious fundamentalism. He said both these countries have shown a marked preference for having a collaboration with India; it is now up to Indian businessmen to make the best use of this opportunity. He assured them that the government will give them all help in this connection.

PRC Vice Minister Discusses Trade Ties

BK2605175893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 26 (AFP)—China said Wednesday [26 May] it was keen to step up trade links with India but stressed that economic relations between the two Asian giants should be equitable and fair.

Chinese Vice Minister for Trade Jin Renqing told Indian businessmen at a luncheon here that two-way trade should be based on "equality, mutual benefit and on the principle of balance between exports and imports."

Jin, who is heading a Chinese team on a visit to India, said both nations should enhance commercial relations in tune with their economic reforms and market-friendly policies.

Asia's two most populous countries have opened their economies to foreign investors over the past few years and ended decades of market barriers.

The Chinese minister said India's Export-Import Bank, which provides credit to traders, had played a big role in boosting exports and added that China would soon set up a similar body.

He said he had met with Indian Finance Secretary Montek Singh Ahluwalia to discuss the operational details of the bank.

Jin said Sino-Indian trade was just 303 million dollars last year and could be increased greatly to mutual benefit.

He said China had attracted 10 billion dollars in overseas investment last year through its "carefully crafted policy of letting foreign investors repatriate profits, liberalised foreign exchange rules and treaties to avoid double taxation."

Diplomatic relations between the two countries plunged after a war in 1962 over their disputed border and China's hegemony over Tibet

Cordial ties were reestablished in 1991 following the landmark visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng to India.

Talks on Repatriation of Chakma Refugees Held

BK2605162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The official-level talks between India and Bangladesh were held at Agartala today to work out the detailed modalities for the repatriation of Chakma and other tribal refugees presently staying in camps in South Tripura. The meeting was opened by the acting chief minister of Tripura, Mr. Biadyanath Mazumdar.

During the talks, the Bangladesh side assured that suitable conditions will be created in the Chittagong Hill Tracts so that the refugees could go back and live with dignity, safety, and security. It was decided that India would handover a list of refugees living in Tripura to Bangladesh to facilitate the process of repatriation.

Army Arrests Top Kashmiri Militant

BK2705034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the Army achieved another major success yesterday when a top militant, Ghulam Qadir Lone, was arrested along with his two associates during a search operation at village Kunial Chakpura in Baramula District. Qadir was a self- styled district leader for the militant outfit Hizbul Mojahedin and was wanted in connection with several acts of militancy. One of the militants and an army GCO [general commanding officer] were seriously injured when they fell down from a hill during the operation. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from the militants. The Army also rescued a kidnapped person from a militant hideout village in Karbagh near Sumbal. One militant was killed in the operation.

Iran

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Visits for Talks

Meets Counterpart

LD2605174693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The possibilities for bilateral cooperation between Iran and Kuwait in oil affairs and changes in the international oil market were discussed at a meeting of the oil ministers of the two countries in Tehran on the eve of the forthcoming OPEC meeting.

Mr. al-Baghli, the Kuwaiti oil minister, expressing his appreciation for the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in capping the Kuwaiti oil wells, announced the readiness of his country for bilateral cooperation in the exchange of oil products, the transfer of new oil technology, and exchange of specialist groups, experiences and information regarding the reconstruction of oil installations.

During the meeting Mr. Aqazadeh, our country's minister of petroleum, welcomed the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Kuwait in oil, gas, and petrochemical fields, describing the expansion of such cooperation a powerful means for the economic growth and development of the two countries.

In this meeting the Iranian and Kuwaiti oil ministers also talked about the current changes in the oil market and the need for coordination among the OPEC member countries at the forthcoming OPEC meeting which will be held in Geneva on 8 June.

Received by President

LD2605193193 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani today told the Kuwaiti Minister of Oil, 'Ali Ahmad al- Baghli, that natural resources should be used for the benefit of Muslim and Third World countries and not sold cheaply on the world market.

At the meeting, also attended by Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, he said Iran is ready to cooperate with Persian Gulf states to safeguard the future of the oil market.

Baghli submitted a message to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and briefed him on the status of his country after liberation from Iraqi occupation.

He appreciated Iran's stand during the occupation of his country by Iraqi forces (Aug.90-Jan.91) and said: "We are confident that your country's principled and Islamic stance towards Kuwaiti people was based on Islamic principles and good neighbourly relations."

President Rafsanjani thanked the amir for his message and hoped that Kuwait would succeed in tackling its post-war problems.

"We are interested in the reconstruction of Kuwait with no foreign interference or meddling", he made it clear.

Rafsanjani also regretted that the Baathist regime of Iraq in violating Kuwaiti security created problems for the whole region.

Velayati Sums Up Visit to Gulf States

LD2605181593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati returned to Tehran this afternoon after visiting six Persian Gulf littoral states and talking to high-ranking officials of those countries.

In an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit after his arrival, Mr. Velayati described the result of his talks with the officials of those countries as positive and said that this trip opened a new chapter in the expansion of cooperation between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Stressing that the maintenance of security in the Persian Gulf region would not be possible without the serious and direct participation of regional states, the foreign minister said: The countries of the region have also come to the conclusion that comprehensive security cannot be achieved in the region without friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rejecting any foreign interference under the pretext of establishing security in the region, Mr. Velayati added: It is only through the creation of a friendly climate that one can guarantee the stability of the region. This is a conclusion which the countries of the region have also reached.

Referring to the breaking of the impasse in the Iran-United Arab Emirates talks, the minister of foreign affairs described the talks with the officials of that country as one of the most sensitive points of his visit to the Persian Gulf littoral states. He said that it has been decided that friendly talks for solving the bilateral problems will continue.

Concerning the probable exchange visits of the Iranian and Saudi Arabian leaders, the minister of foreign affairs said: The foreign ministers of the two countries will study the issue of the visits of the leaders of the two countries in the future, and the times and places of such meetings will be fixed at those talks.

In conclusion, concerning the friendly relations between Iran and Qatar, he said: During this trip the issue of the provision of drinking water for Qatar by Iran was studied.

Pilgrims Urged To Attend Disavowal of Pagans Ceremony

LD2605131593 Tehran IRNA in English 1228 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Mecca, May 26, IRNA—Head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri Tuesday called on hajj pilgrims to actively take part in the 'deliverance from pagans' ceremonies to be held here Thursday [27 May].

He said the ceremonies will be held to voice the cries of people who are fed up with the U.S. hegemony and oppression and of those deprived people whose wealth are plundered by "international thieves."

Reyshahri, who is also the special representative of the Vali Faqih (Office of Religious Jurisprudence), stressed the importance of hajj in bringing Muslims closer together and make them acquainted with the problems and issues of the Islamic community.

Commentary Notes Ceremony's Significance

LD2705132793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 27 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The disavowal of pagans ceremonies will be staged in holy Mecca this afternoon, and a message from the leader of the revolution will be read.

The hajj is the greatest and most extraordinary gathering of the world's Muslims. In addition to its mysterious and mesmerizing rituals of worship, this divine ceremony is also the most extensive Islamic meeting point for reviewing the issues of the Islamic world and the problems affecting the lives of Muslims everywhere. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the hajj ceremonies have been marked with the disavowal of the infidels and reading of the message of the imam—God's peace be upon him—and in later years with the guidelines of the leader of the revolution.

Today, the leader of the revolution's message clarifies for the pilgrims and for the rest of the world the fundamental problems and difficulties facing the world of Islam and Muslims. Apart from the conspiracies of arrogant powers and the ongoing struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine, as well as the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the pilgrims of the House of God are becoming familiar today with the most important issues that affect them, that is, unity in methods and objectives.

Imam Khomeyni, peace be upon him, once graciously stated that a hajj that does not include the disavowal is not a true hajj. In explaining this meaningful sentence, it can be said that the meaning of the pilgrimage ceremony is proof of monotheism. The proof of monotheism is not possible without the rejection of all nondivine powers, which means to shun all manifestations of polytheism and to distance oneself from all current tyrannical powers who are deciding the destinies of humankind, and plunder their resources and consider themselves as the ultimate arbiters of the world. Thus, hajj really means the disavowal of nondivine powers. If these powers are political powers, then disavowal also takes on a political coloring, and if they are cultural or economic then the fundamental duty becomes the disavowal of cultural or economic polytheists.

As from 29 May the pilgrims will be going in groups toward the 'Arafat desert and after that to Mena, to

perform the mysterious hajj rituals, just as their father Abraham did. [passage omitted] No power in the present world can bring 2 million people lovingly together so that they may declare that they worship the one and only God and shun any other hollow power. [passage omitted]

Today's ceremony at Mecca carries with it bitter memories of the killings of pilgrims several years ago. A number of the pilgrims were killed because they wanted to say that they accept worshipping one God only. There was an interval of several years, but three years ago the disavowal of pagans ceremonies resumed, and since then the hajj has once again regained its vigor, and every year it opens new horizons to Muslims.

Culture Minister Leaves for Moscow, Baku Visits

LD2705091093 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani left here for Moscow, Russia, Thursday [27 May] morning at the first leg of a week-long official visit to Russia and Azerbaijan. The Iranian minister, accompanied by a number of ministry officials, will visit the two republics at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Yevgeniy Sidorov and Azerbaijani Press Minister [Sabir Khudu ogly] Rustamkhanly.

While in Moscow Larijani is to sign a cultural agreement and hold talks with Russian officials on Tehran-Moscow cooperation in the fields of publications and tourist exchange.

In Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, the Iranian minister will, in addition to signing a cultural agreement, talk with Azeri officials on inauguration of an exhibition of Iranian books, newspapers and handicrafts which is going to open in Ganja city simultaneously with 'Id al-Adha (feast of sacrifice, June 1).

TEHRAN TIMES: No Weapons Given to Armenia, Azerbaijan

LD2705093093 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Iran has never given any arms to either Azerbaijan or Armenia and wants the bloodshed in the caucasus region be ended soon, said the daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Thursday [27 May]. In its editorial the paper referred to the recent statement of the Azeri Prime Minister Panakh Guseynov declaring that there was no truth to the claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran was giving military assistance to the Republic of Armenia.

Ironically, it said, Guseynov's statement coincided with the spread of the opposite rumors in the Armenian capital. "But from where do such rumors stem?" asked the paper. "Since the outbreak of the war in Karabakh in 1988, Iran firmly and officially declared that it was a futile military engagement, and that it could only result in an atmosphere of instability in the region, in widespread losses in human and economic resources, and in the virtual erosion of the real foundations of the national independence of both Azerbaijan and Armenia," the editorial stressed.

"On the basis of such an evaluation of the conflict, Iran never provided any military aid to either of the two countries involved in the conflict," the daily added. On the contrary, it noted, Iran staked its diplomatic prestige on the efforts towards bringing peace to this critical region. "Iran welcomed any mediatory proposal which was put forward with the objective of establishing ceasefire between the two warring nations in the Caucasian region," said the article.

It underlined that Russia was supporting Armenia politically and militarily while Turkey was providing arms and logistical supports to Azerbaijan. "But both Russia and Turkey feel the need to exonerate themselves from the charges of complicity in the prolongation of a useless and bloody armed conflict, and they have both hit upon similar strategies in this connection. While the Russians and their agents in Armenia spread the rumor that Iran is giving military assistance to Azerbaijan, Turkish agents in Azerbaijan are creating the belief in the public opinion that Iran is selling arms to Armenia."

Reiterating that Iran had never given any guns and ammunition to either Azerbaijan or Armenia, the daily concluded by saying, "the Islamic Republic wants the bloodshed to be ended and peace and stability to be restored to the Caucasian region."

Commentary Stresses West's Danger to Muslim World

NC2705113693 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 May 93 p 16

[Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "Cleansing"]

[Text] 1. For the Muslims of the world there is no place for any doubts on the need to voice opposition on the West's policies concerning what has happened and is happening in Bosnia. It has become clear that despite industrial and scientific progress, the West's political mentality has not grown beyond the medieval ages and Europe and America can only be described as the manifestations of barbarianism using modern weapons. It has become clear that they do not tolerate the presence of Muslims even within the limits of some small cities. The Serbs have taken whatever they wanted. And now it is the Croats' turn! They are burning alive the Muslims, including women and children, in their homes and are doing everything in their power to annihilate them. And this crime is described as ethnic cleansing and an act against the Muslims that America and Europe consider to be legitimate.

2. What is the answer that such crimes deserve? It will be extremely regrettable if we think that the answer lies in

Bosnia-Herzegovina and, in other words, to think only that Muslims should try to give arms to Muslims, that the sieges should be lifted, that the Serbs be crushed, etc. Of course all this should be done. But the answer that the world of Islam should give to the West should go beyond this. The world of Islam should free itself from the influence, diktat, intervention, and plundering of the West and, actually, a complete "cleansing" from Western domination should take place. Today not only the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina are being crushed, but in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia cries of the Koran are being silenced with bullets! Whoever—be they Jews, Christians, prostitutes, and Western hooligans—may say whatever they want to. But when it comes to references to the teachings of Islam and the Koran, these are considered great crimes. In the Persian Gulf, foreigners are like a cancerous wound eating away at the oil wells and every day millions of dollars of Muslim wealth is being plundered. In Central Asia and in the Caucasus, Russia, which is drowned in problems, declares the policy of crushing Islamism as a necessary policy; what is happening in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan is the first fruit of this evil. Today Islam is the target of assault and there is only one answer to this: that the world of Islam should be cleansed of foreign domination!

3. Where do we stand vis-a-vis this important issue and what is our current situation? It is only sufficient to refer to the foreign ministerial session of the Islamic Conference Organization in Karachi. The foreign ministers of Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia said that the biggest threat in the world of Islam from within is Islamic fundamentalism and they called for the need for a collective confrontation of this phenomenon! Even worse and more painful than this was the fact that none of the members raised a voice against the oppression and assaults that are being exercised against Islam! If a brave defense for Islam is subtracted from our presence in such gatherings, then what will be left? Who should have stood up at the Karachi session and cried out to reveal the war against the Koran and Islamic shari'ah before the dependent and deviated spoke up for the need to fight fundamentalism? Defending the revival of Islam and of the movement of Islamism is not an issue we can ignore because we have "reservations." In this new field of wheeling and dealing in the world today, we should make defense for this holy wave the biggest weapon and backing of our political activities, but of course in a very calculated and extremely powerful way.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Official Urges Condemnation of Raid

NC2605181893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] London, 26 May (MENA)—Dr. Sanabarq Zahedi, secretary of the National Iranian Resistance Council and the official in charge of Mojahedin-e Khalq's Arab Department, has stressed that the raid launched by the regime of the mullahs against Iranian resistance bases came while the regime is experiencing special political circumstances. He said the regime wants to flex its muscles abroad before the upcoming presidential elections.

Zahedi pointed out that a similar raid was launched against the Iranian resistance in April last year, just before the Majles elections.

He told a MENA correspondent in London that Iranian Resistance Leader Dr. Mas'ud Rajavi had addressed a call to the Iranian people urging them to boycott the elections, explaining that the mullahs' regime began to lose its credibility and legitimacy, and that the Iranian people, therefore, should boycott the elections.

Zahedi stressed that the clerical regime wanted to deal a blow to the resistance for its call for boycotting the elections.

He said escalating resistance military operations inside Iran leaves the regime in a state of fear and panic, which makes him launch these aggressions.

He explained that the regime has suffered major blows dealt by the resistance inside Iran, and it failed to do any harm to resistance, whether at home or abroad.

Zahedi said Resistance leader Mas'ud Rajavi sent a cable to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, and another to the Security Council members three days before the raid, explaining the regime's preparations to attack the bases of the National Liberation Army. in his cable to Butrus-Ghali, Rajavi called for a Security Council session to discuss the developments, while in his other cable, Rajavi told the Security Council members that failure to condemn Iranian aggressions would encourage the mullah's regime to continue them and violate Security Council resolutions, especially No. 598.

Zahedi called on all Arab and Islamic countries to condemn the raid. He said that these attacks require a decisive position against them. The mullahs' regime, he added, is experiencing extremely difficult political, social, and economic circumstances, with the resistance operations shaking its foundations. For these terrorist operations which the regime exports to the Arab and Islamic countries to stop, he said, all Arab and Islamic countries must condemn them.

Opposition Says DPK Positions Shelled 25 May

NC2705062393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] According to a report received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, the clerical regime's military forces once again resumed their shelling of the Political Bureau [of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK] positions and surrounding villages in Iraqi Kurdistan at 2100 on 25 May and continued this antihuman act until midnight.

During these hours, dozens of canons and mortars rained on the villagers and the defenseless people in these areas.

With the repetition of this criminal act, the clerical regime showed that it is steadfast in its decision to commit acts of aggression against and to encroach on the territory of another country and that it has no qualms about carrying out such antihuman acts.

In relation with the regime's aggression against Iraqi Kurdistan, we have also received another report: At 0600 on Tuesday, 25 May, the Islamic Republic's warplanes crossed the Iran- Iraq border twice and violated Iraqi Kurdish airspace in the Darbandikhan area. It should be noted that a report broadcast on the Voice of the Kurdish People, the mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said the Iranian regime had promised to refrain from shelling border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan starting on 22 May 1993. The recent shelling proves how much neighboring governments and people can believe in the Islamic Republic's promises.

Nepal

National Assembly Elections Scheduled for 22 Jun

BK2605125293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 26 (AFP)—Nepal's Election Commission announced Wednesday [26 May] that elections would be held for 17 National Assembly seats in June.

The terms of one third of the members in the 60-member upper house expire in June.

Completing two-year terms are three nominees from King Birendra, eight members of the ruling party and six from opposition parties.

Under Nepal's 1990 constitution one third of members sit for two years, another third for four years and the final third for six years, with MPs originally divided into each group based on a lottery.

The June 22 elections will also decide the presidents, vice pr@sidents and members of District Development Councils in 75 districts, it said.

Political analysts here said the completion of their two year terms by eight members of the ruling Nepali Congress would give Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala a free hand to make important changes in his two-year old government with new faces taking important ministries including foreign and finance.

Sources close to the prime ministers office said Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya, a nominated member in the upper house with a six-year term, who is also a close relative of the prime minister, is expected to be elevated to full ministerial rank and be appointed foreign minister.

Pakistan

Further on Court's Reinstatement of Sharif Government

Sharif Chairs Cabinet Meeting

BK2605171093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1600 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] A meeting of the federal cabinet was held in Islamabad this evening. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif presided. The meeting, which began with the recitation of the holy Koran by Minister of State Mian Mohammad Zaman, reviewed the situation in the country. Addressing the meeting, the prime minister thanked God for the success of the efforts for upholding the supremacy of law and the Constitution and for the promotion of democratic values. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that we administered the affairs of the government while remaining within the precincts of law and the Constitution before and will run governmental affairs in accordance with the Constitution and law in the future as well. He said that this is not the victory of anyone, but the victory of the people, of the whole of Pakistan, the victory of the Constitution and democracy. Congratulating the entire nation, the prime minister said that I extend my salute to the people of Pakistan, who succeeded in overcoming this test by standing unitedly like a fortress.

Referring to the court decision, the prime minister said that the rule of the Constitution and law has been established in a real sense today. He said that we extend our tribute to the judiciary whose decision established the supremacy of the Constitution. He also paid tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan for fulfilling their responsibility in accordance with the Constitution during this entire period.

Sharif Holds News Conference

BK2605185893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1800 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed his firm determination to implement more vigorously the development and people's welfare-oriented policies, to work to overcome the unemployment problem on an urgent basis, and for a new political order. He was addressing a news conference at the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad tonight. He said that the earlier economic policies initiated by his government will not only be continued, but will be made more effective for the welfare of the country and the nation. He said that sincere efforts will be made for speedy industrialization in the country, improving the facilities by setting up more than one highway, the timely running of the bullet train, and implementing with wholehearted determination and sincerity the policy of privatization in a very clear and transparent manner.

On the new political system, he said that it is aimed at getting rid of blackmailing and horse-trading and abolishing the trend of changing allegiance in politics. He emphasized that some major reforms are needed to realize these objectives. He appealed for cooperation to all political forces in order to streamline the Constitution and to resolve the issues which caused the current crisis. The prime minister said that it is now time for all political forces to get together so that a solution to the problem created by the Eighth Amendment could be found.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that fresh efforts would be needed to set the economy on the path of development and to restore the confidence of investors. He said that international financial institutions and aid-giving agencies have always commended his policies for their importance and usefulness.

Expressing his regrets, he said that he could not even think that the caretaker government would malign his economic policies in such a manner and launch a character assassination drive through the mass media. Had there been charges of dishonesty and misappropriation against him and his government, the caretaker government should have referred them to the court instead of finding fault through the mass media. He said the verdict given by the Supreme Court today has proved our honesty and truth.

On relations between the federal government and the provinces and his attitude toward the president, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said he would work within the constitutional framework. Referring to the principles of his foreign policy, to which he is adhering strictly, the prime minister clarified that these policies are based on peace and cooperation. He said Pakistan has always condemned terrorism and there is no justification to level any sort of allegation against Pakistan.

Army To Abide by Verdict; Bhutto Comments

BK2605151893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1547 GMT 26 May 93

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, May 26 (AFP)—Pakistan's supreme court Wednesday [26 May] restored Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government, and the president who sacked him five weeks earlier said he would respect the verdict.

The army, the third power pillar, also reportedly decided to honour the judgement. [passage omitted]

Sharif described the verdict as "a victory for democracy, law and the constitution." He drove in a motorcade to Pakistan's biggest mosque, the Faisal Mosque here, and offered thanksgiving prayers there along with members of his cabinet members.

"A new chapter has been written in the history of Pakistan," said Sharif's lawyer Khalid Anwar, beaming with joy while one of his chamber colleagues, overwhelmed by emotion, was seen wiping tears. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani army was quoted as saying it would honour Wednesday's verdict, allaying fears of an intervention.

"The army will abide by the decision of the supreme court," the PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY said quoting unnamed military sources.

In her hometown of Karachi, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who had supported the dissolution of the assembly, said her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would work out a future course of action.

"We will discuss the future course of action in Islamabad," said a grim-looking Bhutto before boarding the plane for the capital in a haste after the judgement was announced.

"The people of the country want to elect their representatives afresh," she said.

Bhutto's PPP were partners in the interim government which had accused Sharif of "economic mismanagement" and "kick backs" in major development projects.

Ironically, Bhutto's government was itself dismissed by Ishaq Khan on August 6, 1990, also on corruption charges. She says that the subsequent elections that brought Sharif to power were rigged.

Parliamentary Speaker Gohar Ayub summoned a session of the lower house for Thursday evening, while Sharif met his deputies at the residence of Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in Islamabad.

"Sovereignty has returned to where it belonged," said Ayub Khan, calling it a historic day for Pakistan and the the start of a "true democracy."

He said "tremendous grounds" exist for a rapprochment between the President and premier.

Political activity had come to a standstil while business and economy had slowed down while the court deliberated.

In Karachi, businessmen welcomed the return of the pro-business Sharif government.

"It is very good and bold decision by our judiciary which will restore the confidence of domestic and foreign investors in Pakistan," said Mian Habibullah, president of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Karachi.

It was the first time since Pakistan's creation in 1947 that the court had restored a dissolved assembly and a sacked prime minister has been reinstated.

Three parliaments have been dissolved in the past five years.

Sharif Hails Armed Forces' Neutrality

BK2605165093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1600 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Addressing a news conference a short while ago, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that the Supreme Court decision has set the country on the path of the Constitution, law, and democracy and this is a victory of the whole nation. He said that the Supreme Court decision has helped the nation to overcome a great test. The prime minister said that the neutrality displayed by the Pakistani Armed Forces, who cared for only military duties and kept themselves away from politics, during this time of test is also a part of history and is commendable. He said that I extend my salute to the judiciary on this historic decision that it upheld the Constitution and law. He said that the decision will be written in golden letters in the country's history.

Army Chief Congratulates Sharif

BK2605185093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1836 GMT 26 May 93

["Special Bulletin"]

[Text] The chief of Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's Secretariat tonight. During the meeting, Gen. Abdul Waheed congratulated Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on restoration of his government and the National Assembly by the Supreme Court. Gen. Abdul Waheed also exchanged views with the prime minister on the country's defense.

Navy Chief, Others Call On Sharif

BK2705024493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday and congratulated him on the restoration of the National Assembly and his government. They also exchanged views on matters relating to national security. Naval Chief Admiral Sayeed M. Khan also met the prime minister.

A delegation of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan led by party chief Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi met the prime minister in Islamabad yesterday and congratulated Nawaz Sharif for waging a valiant struggle. The prime minister assured them that steps will be taken soon to enforce the Islamic system in the country.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has appealed to the nation to offer special prayers tomorrow, Friday, to thank God for the restoration of the National Assembly. He said the entire Pakistani nation is thankful to God for the victory of the truth.

Political, Business Leaders React

BK2705032893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The people from all over the country and the leaders of public opinion have hailed the Supreme Court's verdict restoring the National Assembly and Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's government. They have described the Supreme Court verdict as a historic decision and the victory of democratic institutions. They said the decision has fulfilled the aspirations of the people and it will promote democracy in the country, adding that the verdict has restored the people's confidence in the judiciary and the democratic institutions. Among others who have lauded the court decision include Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed; Jamhoori Watan Party President Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti; Maulana Mohammad Afzal Khan, the acting chief of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Darkhwasti group; Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister; Justice Dr. Javed Iqbal, a former judge of the Supreme Court; Raja Zafarul Haq, the secretary general of the World Muslim Congress; Chaudhary Mohammad Islam, the president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Amanullah Khan, the president of the Islamabad Stock Exchange; and Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The statements of the people who have welcomed the restoration of the National Assembly are still coming in.

Meanwhile, an APP report from Karachi says that the stock exchange market has risen sharply following the news of the restoration of the National Assembly, with shares of several (?file) companies rising by two to eight rupees.

Assembly Speaker on 'Great Victory'

BK2705114393 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 27 May 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan has termed the Supreme Court's verdict as a "great victory" for democratic institutions and restoration of the will of people. "I still demand president's resignation, as he has morally lost," he advocated.

The jubilant speaker after hearing the verdict of the court rushed to the Parliament building where excited staff greeted him on "historic triumph." Later, talking to the newsmen he said now the sovereignty of the representative institutions had been upheld.

"From today onward the country will flourish through democracy," he opined and said, "on the basis of requisition submitted by 62 MNAs [members of National Assembly] on April 18 there will be session of the National Assembly today (Thursday) at 5 p.m.

Gohar Ayub criticised those who tried to usurp the people's rights through the false interpretation of Constitution. He said [words indistinct] Secretariat, openly confronted with the president. But now it had been established that no one could enslave the people or treat them on the basis of his personal whims, he emphasised.

The speaker said in future there would be no victimisation [words indistinct] democracy to take its roots. He hoped that now ther would be better understanding between the ruling party and the opposition because the differences of the past now had been removed.

Gohar Ayub while pleading his neutral posture said, "as the assembly has been restored and I don't have to contest the election so I will be trying to run the business of the House in an independent manner." He also criticised the president who according to him (Gohar) was acting as a leader of the opposition.

He maintained that the president should accept his moral defeat and should resign. "If he likes to be comfortable then work should within the defined clauses of the constitution and don't encroach on the duties and functions of other institutions," [as published] he said.

Gohar Ayub said, "I am very much excited and proud of the establishment of the [word indistinct] of democratic institutions." He said though democracy jolted for a while but now the courts had defined where the prime minister and the president stood. Rather court had defined the ambit of presidential powers, he added.

Ruling out the chances of martial law, Gohar Ayub said, "martial law comes only when there is any unpopular government and our army is our own peole in uniform they don't represent the British colonial army [as published]." He also viewed that there was no need for holding fresh elections as the electioneering never started in the wake of dissolution. "This reflect the will of the people and secondly, in Pakistan either spring or autumn are the election seasons, not the scorching heat," he emphasised.

Gohar Ayub claimed that present situation did not demand promulgation of emergency clause as there was neither civil disturbances nor any external threat.

APP adds: The speaker said there had been heavy lesson particularly economic damages caused to the country because of dissolution of the National Assembly by the president and the actions of the caretaker government, adding that there would be seriously reviewed.

To a question, the speaker said the caretaker government had little regard for the Supreme Court as they filed the review petition before the judgement was announced by the court. He said the review petition was also rejected as the court found that it had no ground.

Party Leader on No-Confidence Motion

BK2705114793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 27 May 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—PML (C)[Pakistan Muslim League (Chattha)] president, Hamid Nasir Chattha while predicting worst political chaos in the wake of the restoration of National Assembly has vowed to table no-confidence motion against Nawaz Sharif as soon as possible.

Talking to THE FRONTIER POST at his residence Chattha reiterated that country could not afford Nawaz Sharif anymore. About the fate of their on bloc resignations [words indistinct]. We expressed our intention to resign but don't know whether they have reached the speaker or not.

"However, we will be attending the session today (Thursday) and the moment we get an opportunity we will table no-trust move against Nawaz Sharif."

Chattha yesterday remained busy, in discussing the changing political scenario, emerged after the [word indistinct], with his party party general secretary, Senator Iqbal Ahmad Khan Brig. (Retd) Mohammed Asqhar and Asad Junejo. JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulemi -Pakistan] (Noorani) leader K.M. Azher was also present on the occasion.

Chattha said that despite restoration of National Assembly he had not lost the political battle. "It is shifted from judicial arena for a while but now it is once again in the political court," he added.

Accepting the verdict of court he said, "It is the wisdom of court but still we have to see the complete decision." Responding to a query he said, "It is the wisdom of court but still we have to see the complete decision." Responding to a query he said, "I am a politician and won't comment on the [words indistinct] martial law."

PPI/APP adds: former caretaker federal minister for communications and planning Chaddhry Hamid Nasir Chattha did not offer any comment when asked as to what was the anomaly in the dissolution order which led to the restoration of the National Assembly. He said this question should be addressed to Iqbal Ahman Khan the former caretaker federal minister, who is a lawyer by profession.

Iqbal Ahmad Khan said he could not offer any comment without going through the short judgement of the Supreme Court.

President's Reaction Said 'Reassuring'

BK2705005393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[Text] Wednesday, May 26, 1993 is destined to go down in the history of Pakistan as one of the happiest days.

Today, the nation has seen after many setbacks the supremacy and majesty of law proclaimed and established. By what is virtually a unanimous verdict, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has struck down a presidential order which had resulted in the instant dissolution of the country's highest law-making body, the National Assembly. The order had also dismissed the government of Pakistan headed by Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The two highest institutions, the most powerful pillars of the state, have been restored. The legislature is revived and the executive also restored.

Ever since April 18 when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan took the decision to abrogate the National Assembly and the national government, the nation had been on its (?lowest strength). The dismissed prime minister and others filed a petition with the Supreme Court, challenging the presidential order issued under the controversial Eighth Amendment. The Supreme Court began hearing and acted with a sense of supreme urgency [and] finalized the proceedings after 15 sittings. All parties concerned were allowed the fullest opportunity to be heard by the Supreme Court. It should be remembered that a senior member of the 11-judge panel, Mr. Justice Shafiur Rahman, suffered a personal tragedy of the profoundest grief. His 26-year-old son died in a terrible accident. But Mr. Justice Shafiur Rahman did not allow his grief to cause a moment's interruption in the proceedings in the Supreme Court. He virtually returned to the bench from the graveyard to attend to his duty.

A most reassuring aspect of this event is the graceful manner in which the president of Pakistan has reacted to the Supreme Court striking down his order in its totality. The spokesman of the President's House has stated in a statement to the media that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has accepted the Supreme Court's ten to one verdict against his orders [and] would respect it without any hesitation. The president has assured the country that respect and obedience to the Constitution of the country is an article of faith with him. He has said that he has always tried in his wisdom to act in strict accordance with the Constitution and he shall continue to do so. He considered obedience to and strict adherence of the constitution his official as well as religious duty.

The president's candid acceptance of the Supreme Court verdict establishes a practise which is worthy of respect. In this crisis-ridden spell from the dissolution of the National Assembly and dismissal of the government, the Army has stood aloof and with great dignity. It would be wrong to believe that the Army top brass were indifferent to what was happening in the country. They were watchful but without the least temptation to be part of the proceedings which were purely of political nature. There is reason to believe that during these days, the Army was more than unusually alert to any threat to the country's frontiers. The nation would remain ever grateful to the great strength of character and sense of discipline and patriotism displayed by the Armed Forces and their leadership in a moment of difficulty.

Now that the country has been restored with the constitutional normalcy and the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has so gracefully reiterated his commitment to constitutional process and democratic practices, it is expected that the temporary misunderstandings will be wiped out from the memories and the affairs of the state (?sorted out) by all concerned in all earnestness. A great deal of work has to be attended still expediously. The better is round the corner. Issues of grave and far-reaching importance have to be taken up. Every effort must be made to make out for the precious time lost. From tomorrow morning, it should be business as usual and with doubled application and enthusiasm.

Verdict 'Humiliation' for President

BK2705120393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Historic Verdict"]

[Text] The verdict of the Supreme Court, restoring the National Assembly and the Nawaz Sharif government, is historic not only in the sense that it is a major milestone in the legal and constitutional history of the country, but also that it has for the first time washed away the stigma on the good name of our judiciary that the verdict of the Tamizuddin case had planted on it. Repeated dissolutions of the supreme legislatures of the country by autocratic rulers had created an impression that even the highest courts had become a handmaiden of whoever happened to be in power. This verdict would now restore the judiciary's credibility and enhance its past prestige in the eyes of the public. While it vindicates Mian Nawaz Sharif's position and denigrates the campaign of vilification that had been launched against him by the [words indistinct] face of the President who, according to the verdict, has been guilty of overstepping his constitutional limits. It is a personal humiliation for him. And even though he can remain the President of the country till the end of his present term, if he chooses to do so, he will no longer be seen as the symbol of the unity and integrity of the country. He will never be able to regain the high pedestal on which the Constitution had placed him. While pondering his future in such a predicament he should seriously consider stepping down and making way for a person who can have a more cordial working relationship with the Prime Minister. So far as Mian Nawaz Sharif is concerned, while his honour and his office have been restored, it would be unrealistic to assume that from now on it is going to be just roses and cheers all the way for him. His following in the National Assembly having been severely mauled through intrigues or pressure, a vote of confidence in him as the Leader of the House alone may not be able to sustain him for long. The greatest political damage inflicted on him is not in fact to his position in the National Assembly, but to his home base, Punjab. How far will he be able to reclaim his past standing there, given that the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] is gone and his own political party is badly split,

remains to be seen. A silver lining in this rather discouraging situation, however, is the non-partisan and highly commendable neutral role that the Army has played.

Far greater problems in the form of hostile Provincial Assemblies and an opposition which still threatens to challenge him outside the Parliament, are just waiting in the wings. If anything, these confrontations may become even more acute. It will not therefore be easy for him to pick up the threat of continuity from where he had left it. Even if he succeeds in rallying some of those who deserted him, the old momentum is gone [words indistinct] the opposition or it is the fault of a wily President who chose to capitalise on it, the fact remains that he has now to cope with a minefield of changed political alignments. It will require not only an awareness of the dangers inherent in it but a statesmanship that will have to resurrect a new modus vivendi out of the debris of the past antipathies, hatreds and narrow partisan politics. If he fails in that, the great courage and wisdom shown by our Supreme Court would, to some extent, have been in vain. The PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson Ms Benazir Bhutto will also have to eat humble pie in the sense that not only she was a party to the dismissal of the Nawaz government but was also the major component of the caretaker setup. Instead of making good her threat to challenge the Supreme Court decision on the steets, she should try to evolve a modus vivendi with the resurrected Nawaz government. The ruling party should also bury the hatchet and go more than halfway to accommodate the Opposition.

Concern Over Indian Military Movements, Intentions

Buildup on Rajasthan Border

BK2605152993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 24 May 93 pp 8, 5

[Text] Sukkur—After the Israeli foreign minister's visit to New Delhi, India has begun war preparations on a massive scale and has started sending fresh contingents to the areas in Rajasthan along its borders with Sindh. Because of this, a massive movement of the Indian Army can be seen in the Rajasthan area. According to reliable sources, smugglers have restricted their activities due to the strict checks launched by the Indian Border Security Force. The Indian smugglers have intimated to their agents in Pakistan that they will not buy any more goods from them, as the Indian central government has sealed its borders along Sindh and has blocked all sorts of communications. According to the sources, the agents of the smugglers from the Indian Border Security Force have intimated to them that a massive deployment of troops is being carried out along the borders and sophisticated war materiel is being dispatched to the Rajasthan sector, and hence the smuggling activities should be stopped. The sources further say that India has also dispatched a brigade of experts in desert warfare to the border with Sindh. After the report of the informed sources, Pakistan has also issued fresh directives to its forces to be alert on the borders and has ordered them to be prepared to meet any Indian aggression. According to the sources, the borders adjoining India are being closely monitored. Meanwhile, military experts have opined that India could try to take advantage of the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir, the U.S. anger toward Pakistan, and the internal situation, as well as the political crisis in Pakistan. They are also of the view that this time India could commit its aggression on the border with Sindh. However, due to the situation in east Punjab and its domestic problems, India will not take the risk of a war with Pakistan. The installation of Patriot [as published] missiles on the borders and the massive movement of troops in the Rajasthan sector are a trick to exert pressure on Pakistan.

Missile Deployment Causing Tension

BK2505120293 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 24 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian Missiles on Border—An Uncalled For Provocation"]

[Text] The tension in the subcontinent has moved a few notches up with the deployment of Prithvi missiles by India along its border with Pakistan. We have not heard from official sources as to the purpose of this deployment, but one thing is certain—they are not defensive weapons as they are devices to strike targets within the range of 250 kilometre. A number of Pakistan cities of industrial and strategic significance have become vulnerable to them. India cannot claim that these additional measures are in response to the stepped up military presence on the Pakistani side of border, since this country has not made fresh deployment or reinforcements along common boundaries. The present Indian action is quite provocative in nature and does not augur well for peace and stability in the region.

We have to see the arrival of missiles in Punjab sector in the context of overall developments in this region. It is not an isolated move, but part of a grand strategy to bully our country into submission, as well as to boost the electoral fortunes of the Indian ruling party by a show of belligerence toward this country. The recent visit of Israeli Prime Miniser is also a part of this game plan, since that country has been itching for long to have a go at our nuclear energy plants. That visit ties up with the US and Western alliances' plans to encircle Pakistan on all fronts.

International considerations apart, domestic situation in India is also showing disturbing trends. Many Western analysts have started making serious predictions about a decisive victory of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in the next polls. In order to combat the growing popularity of BJP, the Congress (I) may decide on a pre-emptive strike against a Muslim country to make inroads into militant Hindu constituency. New Delhi has already started manufacturing a series of pretexts to justify what is known as surgical operation against Pakistan's industrial and military centres.

One added reason for giving aggressive depth to its Punjab sector is the chaotic political situation and high degree of polarisation in this country caused by the dissolution of National Assembly. That may have led the Indian war lords to think that their neighbour is in a vulnerable position. It may be stressed here that with rapid advances in missile technology targets can be hit from long distances with precision to devastating effect. Full scale invasion by ground force is being increasingly avoided due to high level of losses in human life. Therefore, the possibility of what is called selective strikes by Indian forces cannot be ruled out. Under these circumstances, it is necessary for the sake of regional peace and stability for the UN and other powers interested in promoting peace to persuade India to desist from the policy of brinkmanship. India is also encouraged by the stoppage of military aid to Pakistan from Western sources, but Indian jingoists should seriously consider the possibility of making tragic miscalculations. Our country has diversified its sources of supplies since after the cold war while uncertain political situation has led to a high degree of alert in the defence establishment. Therefore, if New Delhi is tempted to launch preemptive strikes, it may be in for a nasty surprise. But taking a long view of the situation, one is forced to conclude that these short-sighted policies will lead to mutual destruction and endless suffering of common people on both sides of the border.

Wisdom and statesmanship demand that India remove these missiles from sensitive border areas to give the political climate in this area a measure of normalcy.

Concern Expressed to Other Countries

BK2605154593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pakistan will seek the cooperation of other countries for them to use their influence on India to make it act with restraint as Pakistan wants to avoid tension with India. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that Pakistan has sought the cooperation of Islamic countries, Western nations, the United States, the PRC, and other countries in view of the increase in the number of Indian troops in occupied Kashmir during the past weeks. He said the recent increased deployment of troops in occupied Kashmir reflects the fact that India is getting ready to commit atrocities against innocent Kashmiris in a massive way.

In reply to a question, he said in the past few weeks Indian troops have made some movements, especially in the air, inside Indian territory along the Pakistan-India border. According to the Indian press, India has installed medium-range Prithvi missiles near Pakistani territory. The foreign secretary said we are ready for a dialogue with India for a peaceful solution of all outstanding issues, including Kashmir.